

But our fears were not realized and by conciliatory attitudes on both sides all these organizational and procedural difficulties were removed without delay and the conference got down to work at once.

In so far as it went, that was an encouraging sign, but the encouragement which we got from our agreement over procedure has not yet extended to any noticeable progress in the substance of the questions with which we were dealing.

The objective of the conference, of course, was a simple one. It was to convert the armistice which had been signed in Korea into a peace settlement which would last, and on our side, at least, to achieve that settlement by agreement in accordance with United Nations resolutions and decisions on the subject which were meant to facilitate a free, united and democratic Korea.

We must not, of course, forget that we were not in a position at Geneva or indeed elsewhere to impose that kind of settlement on a defeated enemy. And we must not forget either that we have no obligation to impose that kind of settlement on Korea by force. Therefore, it could only be done by agreement, and agreement, of course, has not been easy to obtain.

In seeking such an agreement to attain the objectives laid down by the United Nations, the United Nations and the Republic of Korea delegations have worked closely together in friendly co-operation. They have not always of course, seen eye to eye on means, but have been in agreement in regard to ends.

Such differences are, I suppose, inevitable in discussion between representatives of free governments, but I know the House will agree when I say, Mr. Chairman, that we should try to keep them to a minimum in the face of the common menace which confronts us all.

The communist delegations at the Korean conference spoke as one. They spoke in the same vein and indeed often in the same words in their accusations and attacks largely directed against the United States. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that 90 per cent of the content of their speeches consisted of propaganda and polemics. We got the same distortions of recent developments in Korea to which we have been accustomed at the United Nations, and we got the same falsification of fact and of history. It was interesting to note that the dialectics and diatribes of the new communist delegations were just about the same as that of the old hands.

The delegates on the United Nations side, though anxious to get on with the business of negotiating a Korean settlement, have not allowed these unfounded accusations to go unanswered. To reply to the slanderous attacks and abusive propaganda which form such a depressing proportion of the communist speeches at meetings of this kind is a time-consuming and unpleasant task, but when the eyes of the world are focussed on a conference it is a task which I think we cannot afford to forgo lest it should be supposed in any part of the world, especially in this case in the Asian part of the world, that silence may indicate some kind of consent.