

that a situation of stability might be produced in which negotiations with the Soviet Union might successfully be carried out and that thus there might eventually be an easing for the existing tension.

This situation was radically altered during 1950. The attack on the Republic of Korea on June 25 showed that the Soviet Union and its satellites were now prepared to extend the area under their control by naked military aggression as well as by subversion and propaganda. This challenge to the independence of free peoples everywhere and to the authority of the United Nations was quickly met by the resolutions of the Security Council on June 25 and 27, which branded the puppet government of North Korea as the aggressor and which called on all members of the United Nations to assist in repelling the attack. These resolutions secured the support of 53 members of the Organization and military forces for service in Korea were provided by 12 members including Canada. The military success of these forces under the United Nations Command in defeating the North Korean army gave colour to the belief that a settlement might be worked out in Korea. The further intervention of Chinese Communist forces, however, first shook and then virtually extinguished this expectation; and the diplomatic and military support which was given by the Soviet Union to this act by the Chinese Communists made it clear that those in control of the policy of that country were now willing to run the risk of a general war.

By the end of the year it was apparent that the period of greatest danger had already begun. During the Special Session of Parliament held in September measures had been taken to increase Canadian defence preparations as a deterrent to aggression. The Government is now considering the steps we should take in concert with our allies to meet the even greater danger that faces us at present.

It is recognized that, while the free world has to hasten and strengthen joint action to deter or meet aggression, at the same time it is important that no opportunity for genuine negotiation with the Soviet Union or with the Chinese Communists should be neglected. Nor should preoccupation with military defence be allowed to obscure the cognate responsibility of co-operating with other countries in raising the standard of living in under-developed areas whose poverty presents an opportunity for the deceptive promises of Communist propaganda. Useful initiatives designed to improve conditions in such parts of the world have been taken this year under the auspices both of the United Nations and of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth indeed has shown its vitality during the past year by providing a valuable link between the countries of the West and the countries of Asia that have recently achieved their independence. In these critical months it has been of the highest importance that there should be sympathy and mutual respect between the free peoples of Asia and the countries in the North Atlantic area even when their views did not