

The United Nations' resolution on this subject reads - at least the important sentence of it - that the objectives we are to seek are:

"Achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area."

These are the goals of the Canadian delegation to the conference, and indeed they should be the goals of each delegation whose right to participate at the conference stems from its military contribution to the United Nations' cause in Korea. I can see no obstacle that could not be overcome in the way of the realization of that resolution if there is good faith and good will on both sides; but that "if", Mr. Speaker, as we know from unhappy experience, is big enough to restrain undue optimism as to the results of the conference. Nevertheless, we shall do our part as Canadian representatives, I hope, to achieve a satisfactory result which may bring peace to Korea.

At the Geneva conference there will also be discussed the question of Indo-China. It was agreed on by the four foreign ministers at Berlin that this question should be discussed by representatives of France, the United Kingdom, the United States, the U.S.S.R., the Chinese People's Republic and other interested states. As hon. members know, the problem of Indo-China, where bitter fighting has been going on for eight years and is going on today, has never been submitted to the United Nations for consideration and for that reason Canada has not been as directly concerned with this matter as we were with the aggression in Korea. Nevertheless, I am sure we are all conscious of the critical significance of the struggle in Indo-China as it affects the aspirations of the people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in achieving and maintaining the independence accorded them by France, as it affects the security of the neighboring countries in southeast Asia and as it affects the ability of France to make the maximum contribution to European and North Atlantic security and co-operative arrangements. And so, while we do not expect at Geneva to take any active part in discussion of Indo-China, we shall of course follow these talks with close interest and take advantage of any opportunity that may be afforded to us to help in bringing some satisfactory conclusion out of this particular matter.

Excerpt from a Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in the House of Commons, March 31, 1954. House of Commons Debates, pages 3545 - 3546:

So far as Canada is concerned, Mr. Speaker, we will not act at Geneva, I hope, in a way which would betray national honour, national interests, or our hopes for peace. We are going there, so far as Korea is concerned, to convert an armistice into a peace. We have a United Nations resolution for that purpose which, as I suggested the other day, will be our instructions on this matter.

It has been said by more than one hon. member of the opposition that we have adopted a different attitude in respect of Indo-China. We were asked why we did not show more active interest in the Indo-Chinese problem, which is possibly as important to the peace of the world as the Korean problem. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there