



## REFERENCE PAPERS

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CANADA AND THE KOREAN PROBLEM

The information set out below consists of extracts from official publications and is intended to provide a chronological account, although somewhat disjointedly, of Canada's concern with the Korean problem. Most of the extracts are taken from successive volumes in the CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS series which is published annually by the Department of External Affairs. These volumes, since 1947, have carried chapters on Korea which, when read together, provide a well-rounded picture of developments from the time of the Cairo Agreement on Korea in 1943 until the Armistice was signed in 1953. Additional public statements have been added to bring the survey up to March, 1954.

Since a number of the CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS volumes are now out of print and since the Geneva Conference has heightened the need for such information, this material has been brought together in this form for the convenience of those interested.

Excerpt from CANADA AT THE UNITED NATIONS 1947, Department of External Affairs, pages 31 - 35

At the Cairo Conference in December, 1943, the United States, the United Kingdom, and China agreed "that in due course Korea should become free and independent" and the three Powers undertook to ensure the future security, independence and economic well-being of Korea. The Cairo pledge was reaffirmed in the Potsdam Declaration of July, 1945, and subscribed to by the Soviet Union when it entered the war against Japan.

At the Moscow Conference in December, 1945, the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States issued a declaration concerning the establishment of an independent Korea. The Government of China later adhered to this statement. In the declaration on Korea it was agreed to establish a joint United States-Soviet Commission to meet in Korea and, through consultations with Korean democratic parties and social organizations, to decide on methods for establishing a Provisional Korean Government. The Joint Commission was then to consult with the Provisional Government in order to work out measures to assist the political, economic and social development of the Korean people. It was agreed that the proposals of the Joint Commission to achieve these ends should be submitted for consideration to Governments of the United States, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and China with a view to the establishment of a four-power trusteeship for Korea for a period of up to five years. It was envisaged that the trusteeship period would precede the granting of absolute independence.

In the ultimate event, it proved impossible for the United States and Soviet representatives to co-operate through the Joint Commission to achieve the objective of the Moscow Agreement. As a result, the temporary division of Korea at the 38th parallel between the United States and Soviet authorities was continued. This arbitrary division, which was introduced for purposes of the occupation at the end of the war, has seriously crippled the Korean economy, since the industrial centres are in the north and the agricultural areas in the south. Normal intercourse between the two zones of occupation has not been possible. The Joint Commission met on a limited number of occasions and failed to agree on any question of importance.