

U.N. Security measures since 1946 -

As far back as October, 1946, the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), at the very first Assembly of the United Nations, made a plea for the organization of enforcement procedures under article 43 of the United Nations charter which provides for such enforcement procedures through the Security Council. Nothing was done, as we know, and nothing could be done in the Security Council under article 43 because of the disunity among the big powers.

Then four years later came Korea, and the Canadian response to this challenge to peace and security in 1950 reflected our desire to bring about something more permanent than merely collecting forces for an emergency. As hon. members who were here at the time will recall, a Canadian infantry brigade was made available for United Nations service generally, and I think it was the only force in the United Nations at that time which was offered in those terms, for general United Nations service and not merely for Korea. I do not think any other member of the United Nations went as far as we did at that time. Certainly no one went farther. As I said in the House of Commons when explaining our action in September, 1950:

"We hope that other countries will make their contributions to the Korean force in that form", that is, for use anywhere subject to constitutional procedures, "so that next time this kind of aggression takes place there will be forces in being to deal with it."

On October 11 of the same year I said before the General Assembly:

The action of the Security Council in June showed how unprepared most members of this organization were to implement quickly the recommendations which they accepted. We were frankly not organized for this purpose. We had to improvise. We hope that next time we may not have to improvise.

No progress was made in bringing about this kind of organization for security. The Security Council frustrated all efforts to that end, and that was why in 1950 we passed a Uniting for Peace Resolution which could transfer to the Assembly the responsibility for collective security in these circumstances of frustration and failure in the Security Council. On that Uniting for Peace resolution we had this to say at the United Nations Assembly on November 3, 1950:

It will not be enough for a few countries to take action. We must all, within measure of our capacities, contribute to implementation of this resolution.

Certain other smaller governments took the same stand but over the years nothing was done, and there was no real organization in being when we were faced with this most recent crisis. A collective measures committee was set up by the Assembly but its activities were not very effective.