

FOREWORD

With the signing of the armistice in Korea the United Nations has successfully met its greatest challenge. It has halted — though only after years of bitter fighting — the aggression launched against the Republic of Korea on June 25, 1950. In so doing, it has fulfilled the purpose of the collective military operation which it undertook. The people of Canada can take pride in the fact that they have shared fully in the common effort and that Canadian servicemen have been with the United Nations forces in Korea since 1950.

But just as the issue in Korea was more than a purely military issue, so the ultimate success of United Nations action there has more than a purely military importance. It is a recognition of the conviction, held by the greatest part of mankind, that unprovoked aggression must be resisted. While we must recognize that the United States, with South Korea itself, furnished by far the greatest part of the fighting strength against aggression in Korea, nevertheless the principle of collective resistance to aggression could not have been vindicated by the action of any one nation or one group of nations, however gallant; it could be vindicated only by means of a collective international decision implemented collectively. The instrument for this purpose is the United Nations, through which the peaceful and law-abiding peoples of the free world can — if they desire — unite their strength to maintain international peace and security. In Korea — imperfect as the action there may have been as a demonstration of collective action — the United Nations has given the first example in history of successful collective resistance to aggression, undertaken after an international judgment had been rendered and in support of a principle, which went beyond the necessity of immediate and territorial self-defence.

The achievement of the armistice has been the direct product of military action, but the purpose which gave that action its ultimate political significance was welded into a co-operative policy in the course of long and difficult international discussions, particularly at the seventh session of the General Assembly. It is no reflection upon this achievement, however, to remind ourselves that the conclusion of the Korean armistice does not itself mean peace; it merely gives us the opportunity to make peace. Only through a