

One further resolution submitted by Burma, India, Indonesia and Liberia requested the Secretary-General to communicate the Assembly's proposals to the Peking and North Korean regimes and to report as appropriate. It was adopted by a vote of 54 in favour (including Canada) 4 against and 2 abstentions.

The voting in plenary session followed the same lines as in committee and the seventh session of the General Assembly closed on August 28.

By the time that the eighth session of the Assembly opened on September 15, the United States had received no reply to several messages sent to Peking and North Korea enquiring about a time and place for the political conference. But on September 13, Mr. Chou En-lai, followed by the North Koreans, had sent a message to the Secretary-General calling on the General Assembly to provide for a conference including the belligerents and, as neutral nations, the Soviet Union, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Burma. The time and place of meeting should be discussed by the two sides after composition had been agreed upon. The Soviet and Polish Delegations proposed that consideration of both messages be included in the agenda of the eighth session, but this suggestion was rejected. The Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, during the discussion, stated that it would be wrong, merely because of these demands, for the General Assembly to reopen consideration of the conference and try to reverse its decisions so soon. Moreover, the Assembly had a right to expect the Peking and North Korean regimes to express their views regarding time and place.

The General Assembly did, however, already have on its agenda the report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, an item which in the past had led to comprehensive discussion of the Korean problem. The Political Committee decided, after debate, that consideration of the report should be placed at the bottom of the agenda, with the proviso that it might be debated at any time upon the request of a simple majority. Most delegations, including the Canadian, thought that the delay was necessary to give the United States adequate opportunity to negotiate arrangements for the conference as provided in the seventh session resolution.

On October 10, Communist China and North Korea agreed to meet the United States and talks began in Panmunjom on October 26. They broke down on December 12, when the Communists accused the United States of conniving with the Republic of Korea in what it termed the "perfidious" action of releasing about 27,000 prisoners of war. The United States Representative denied the charge, and when the Communists repeated it said that he would treat it as notification they wanted the talks recessed indefinitely. Before this final breakdown, the negotiations had come up against two main points at issue, the first as to the status of Soviet participation in the proposed conference, the second concerning the participation of neutrals generally. The Communists claimed that the Soviet Union should participate as a neutral and, in accordance with Mr. Chou En-lai's suggestion, wanted four Asian neutrals represented. It was the United States view that the Soviet Union was not a neutral and