

On the other hand, we have been pleased to note that, due to the efforts of the United States and Thailand, sufficiently acceptable assurances have now been given regarding the evacuation of some two thousand troops and their operations until the 15th of November, in anticipation of a genuine first step being taken.

No. 53/40 Complaint by Burma regarding aggression by the Republic of China

Text of a statement delivered on November 4, 1953, in the First Committee of the eighth session of the General Assembly by the Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Alcide Coté, Agenda item 25.

When this question was under consideration by the First Committee in April during the seventh session of the General Assembly, my delegation expressed the opinion that the Nationalist forces under General Li Mi's command, numbering approximately twelve thousand, had maintained themselves in Burma for three years, contrary to international law, and had refused to withdraw or to be disarmed and interned. My government agreed that this placed the Burmese Government in an intolerable position. We expressed our sympathy for their predicament and our greatest respect for the restraint which had been shown in bringing their case to the attention of the United Nations only after several years of negotiations outside which had failed to produce a solution.

At that time we felt that there was a good chance of reaching an agreement with the Government of the Republic of China to use its influence to secure the withdrawal of these foreign troops from Burma. We expressed the hope that the Burmese Government would not press for a formal condemnation of the Nationalist Government of China. We were prepared to support a resolution deploring the activities on Burmese soil of the forces under General Li Mi's command and we felt that a practical solution could be reached by negotiation between the parties directly concerned with such assistance as third parties might be in a position to give.

On that occasion, the distinguished representative of Burma did not oppose the modification of his original proposal. In our opinion, he thereby exhibited the restraint which we hoped would lead to the peaceful solution of the problem. When the distinguished representative addressed this committee during the present session, therefore, it gave us considerable concern to learn that he was forced to report that "no solution has yet been reached". It disturbed us a great deal to learn from him that the air traffic bringing in supplies to the forces of General Li Mi had not ceased but that planes continued coming from Formosa through Thailand bringing in supplies. The evacuation schemes put up by the Burmese were apparently not being implemented. It gave us cause for most serious concern to learn that it had become necessary for the Burmese, after becoming convinced that nothing would come of the talks, to resort to bombing