

under the United States commander on the spot, the acceptance by other United Nations participating of a unified command and the association of any forces given by those nations with that command, would be as a result of a United Nations decision.

We have made it abundantly clear in Washington that if Canada is to help, it must be help to the United Nations, fulfilling our obligations under the Charter, and not help to the United States; also that the United Nations character of the whole operation must be emphasized and formalized. There is no disposition to quarrel with this in Washington or in London or, indeed, in any other quarter that we have explored.

The great danger, as I see it, is not so much that the Russians may use the Korean situation to provoke a general war (I do not think they will do this), but that either United Nations intervention will be ineffective in South Korea or (and this is more likely) it will result in a situation not unlike that which persisted in Spain during the civil war, with two Korean forces facing each other, backed by the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. respectively. The U.S.S.R. may assist the North Koreans to the point where they cannot be decisively defeated in the field, and the U.S.A. may do the same for the South Koreans. This may result in a prolonged indecisive conflict which would be a drain on United States resources. The U.S.S.R. would have every reason to be happy if the United States became heavily, but indecisively, engaged in Korea, while the French were deeply involved in Indo-China and the British pre-occupied with Malaya.

There is, of course, another danger that I have not mentioned above, namely, that United States action may prove decisive, and that public opinion in that country will then insist that United Nations forces move beyond the 38th parallel and clean up the whole of the Korean situation. In that case, there may be an unhappy conflict between United States policy and United Nations policy. The latter is pledged merely to defeat an aggression and not, as I understand it, to change the political situation in Korea. Of course, some such change is bound to take place, as a result of developments of the last week. I do not see how there can be a return to the status quo. Either the communists make good their claim to all of Korea, or the United Nations will have to do something to strengthen the