

Nationalists, was not represented in the Security Council when it passed its resolutions dealing with the North Korean aggression. In a communication addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on June 29, the Soviet Government challenged the legality of the Security Council's resolutions because they were passed without the concurrence of the Soviet Union and the "legal" Communist representative of China. The non-Communist members of the United Nations were not prepared to accept this Soviet contention. They took the view that any change in Chinese representation would have to be effected by the proper procedures and not as a result of Soviet pressure. They also took the view that the voluntary absence of a permanent member (U.S.S.R.) from the Security Council is clearly analogous to an abstention and does not affect the validity of Security Council resolutions.

On July 12 the Acting Permanent Delegate of Canada to the United Nations, Mr. Holmes, informed the Secretary-General that the three Canadian destroyers—*Athabaskan*, *Cayuga* and *Sioux*—which had sailed the previous week from Esquimalt were now made available to the United Nations for the defence of the Republic of Korea.*

In acknowledging the Canadian communication making the three destroyers available, the Secretary-General on July 14 drew attention to the urgent need for additional effective assistance. He asked the Canadian Government, and other member governments, to consider the possibility of providing "an increased volume of combat forces particularly ground forces.† This request to member governments for further assistance was made in view of the gravity of the military situation in Korea where United States and South Korean forces were desperately trying to hold the Kum River line above Taejon.

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, issued a statement on July 19‡ concerning the consideration given by the Cabinet to this request for further assistance. He noted that Canada had obligations as a member of the United Nations, as a signatory of the North Atlantic Treaty, and for the joint defence with the United States of the North American continent. He referred to the three destroyers that had been made available and said these vessels would require continuing support. In view of the need for air transport, Mr. St. Laurent said that the Government had decided to provide at once a long range R.C.A.F. transport squadron for service in the Pacific air lift.** Having in mind the other obligations for the employment of Canadian ground forces, Mr. St. Laurent said that the Cabinet had reached the conclusion that the despatch, at that stage, of existing first line elements of the Canadian Army to the Korean

*See Appendix 12.

†See Appendix 13.

‡See Appendix 14.

**See Appendix 15.