

It was a happy chance from the point of view of the free world that the U.S.S.R. was absent from the Security Council when the blow fell in Korea. It is obviously a chance which will not be repeated, for the U.S.S.R. has come back into all the organs of the United Nations, where they firmly keep their seats and indulge in no more walkouts. In order to be sure that, even in the presence of the U.S.S.R., the United Nations could operate as a collective force for the preservation of peace, the General Assembly has within the past ten days adopted a resolution which will greatly strengthen its hand. This is a resolution which will add to the effectiveness of the Assembly itself as a second line of defence if the Security Council is unable to act in an emergency. The title of the resolution is "United Action for Peace". It provides that, in an emergency, the Assembly may meet within 24 hours. It establishes a Peace Observation Commission which will be available at any time to perform in dangerous areas the useful work of observation which was carried out by similar commissions, specially created for the purpose, in Greece and Korea. It recommends to the United Nations that each member should hold in readiness forces which could be used for collective action in event of danger. Finally, it sets up a Committee to study the methods by which forces can most effectively be placed at the disposal of the United Nations for the preservation of peace. As you know, the Canadian Government acted in accordance with the third of these recommendations even before it was suggested in the Assembly. Canada has already established a Special Force which will be held in readiness to fulfil Canadian obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and under regional agreements within the terms of the Charter, which for us, of course, means the North Atlantic Treaty.

If the central purpose of the United Nations has been to act as a collective security organization, its central weakness has been the great division that has grown up between the Soviet Union on the one hand and the Free World on the other. This is a division which the Soviet representatives at the United Nations continually refer to as "lack of unanimity amongst permanent members of the Security Council". Again and again they say that if only the great powers would agree, the United Nations would prosper. But they speak of unanimity as though it were something that could be had merely for the asking. They overlook, or pretend to overlook, the fact that since 1945, they have abandoned, one by one, the working arrangements upon which the great and impressive united effort of the war was based. They have renewed the activities of international Communism, which they had held in abeyance during the height of the war. They have resumed the practice of isolating their people as much as possible from outside contacts. They have begun once more to present to their people a falsified and distorted picture of the Western world, and they do not permit anyone to correct this picture. They have renewed their practice of intervening through branches of the international Communist organization, in the internal affairs of other states. In regard to the great unsettled political issues of the post-war period, such as Germany and Japan, they have carried their power as far as their force could be made to reach, and they have then set up rigid and uncompromising demands for a settlement that would carry them even further than