rejected before Christmas. Debate was resumed later with more encouraging results, but in the meantime the centre of interest shifted to Korea.

The Geneva Convention of 1949 provides that, independent of any question of general exchange, prisoners of war who have been wounded or are seriously sick may be exchanged even during the continuance of hostilities. The United Nations negotiators had repeatedly proposed at the armistice talks that action be taken to implement the humanitarian clauses of the Convention, but the communist representatives had not favoured the suggestion. On February 22, 1953, General Mark Clark, the United Nations Commander, informed the Chinese and North Korean Commanders by letter that his Command remained ready "immediately to repatriate those seriously sick and seriously wounded captured personnel who are fit to travel in accordance with the provisions of Article 109 of the Geneva Convention." Article 109 provided *inter alia* that no sick or injured prisoner of war eligible for repatriation might be repatriated against his will during hostilities.

On March 28, 1953, the Communist Commanders informed General Clark that they agreed with his proposal and suggested that, since the settlement of the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides should be made to lead to the settlement of the entire problem of prisoners of war, the armistice negotiations ought to be resumed immediately. General Clark replied that the United Nations Command would be willing to proceed at once with arrangements for the repatriation of the sick and wounded and that, if agreement were reached on this matter, would also be prepared to take up, as the second order of business, the question of resuming full armistice discussions.

On March 30, Chou En-lai made an important statement on the prisoner of war question the heart of which was his proposal "that both parties to the negotiations should undertake to repatriate immediately after the cessation of hostilities all those prisoners of war in their custody who insist upon repatriation and to hand over the remaining prisoners of war to a neutral state so as to insure a just solution to the question of their repatriation." His statement also provided that while prisoners were in the custody of the neutral state, representatives of the countries of their origin should be given the opportunity to make "explanations" to them. The President of the Assembly, when he distributed this statement to representatives of member governments, expressed his hope that it might provide a basis for peace in Korea.

The agreement for the repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners was signed at Panmunjom on April 11 and the exchange of these prisoners took place between April 20 and May 3. On April 16, the United Nations Command agreed to resume full armistice negotiations.

In New York a new development occurred at the General Assembly. A resolution was introduced by Brazil on April 14 expressing the hope that further negotiations in Panmunjom "will result in achieving an early armistice in Korea consistent with United Nations principles and objectives" and requesting "the President of the General Assembly to re-convene the present Session