

have been detained long and weary months while lengthy negotiations concerning their fate have continued. If a cease-fire is achieved, there will remain the difficult task of finding solutions to the complex political questions affecting the future of this peninsula and the surrounding area. These wider issues will be discussed at the political conference provided for in the draft armistice agreement.

With an armistice, too, the task of repairing the ravages of war will become an urgent necessity. This, however, is an endeavour which cannot wait for an armistice and has indeed already begun. The United Nations Korean Relief Agency is already co-operating with the Korean Government, and the United Nations Civil Assistance Command is helping to soften the impact of war on the Korean people and the Korean economy. That Agency is now preparing to play an even more extensive role in the rehabilitation of Korea itself.

A plan involving the expenditure of some \$250 millions was prepared and the Canadian Government agreed to assume its fair share of responsibility by substantial pledges to this programme -- pledges which have already been honoured. It is most imperative that nothing should be permitted to delay or impede this urgent and necessary task of relief and rehabilitation in Korea.

Communism's Peace Offensive

The apparent change of heart of the Chinese Communists on the Korean question is but one example of the recent shift in emphasis in the foreign policy of the Communist world. Since the death of Stalin, Communist peace overtures to the West have come with almost bewildering rapidity. To mention only three:

- Following a series of incidents, Russia's commander in Germany, General Chuikov, has now offered to discuss the question of ensuring greater safety in the air over Germany.
- At the UN Mr. Vyshinsky seems to have had a change of heart about Western disarmament suggestions.
- Moscow has announced the exoneration and release of the group of fifteen doctors who were falsely arrested for an alleged plot against the lives of Soviet leaders.

These are specific offers on concrete issues and go a good deal beyond the pious protestations, to which we have become accustomed, that Russia wants to live in peace. If events prove that these proposals have been made in good faith, the free nations can look forward to an easing in the tensions that have held the world in the icy grip of the cold war. Unfortunately, however, on the past record there is little evidence to suggest that we can look for any basic alteration in the ultimate master plan of the Kremlin, whoever its tenant may be.

Whatever their motives may be -- and several interesting possibilities suggest themselves -- the Russians seem only to