

and that it was inconsistent with common humanitarian principles that a detaining power should offer any hindrance to the return to their homelands of any prisoners-of-war. Finally, there was general agreement that the Geneva convention cannot be construed as authorizing a detaining power to employ force to effect the return of individual prisoners-of-war to their homelands.

5. The General Assembly Resolution clearly states the above principles with respect to the solution of the prisoner-of-war issue, and, in addition, makes concrete proposals with regard to the machinery of repatriation. It represents ideas put forward by many governments represented in the General Assembly whose unanimous desire is to bring peace to Korea. The resolution can make this desire effective because its acceptance will make it possible to achieve an armistice and a complete and immediate cessation of hostilities.

6. The resolution, in addition, makes reference to the desire of the General Assembly to expedite and facilitate, once an armistice is effective, the convening of a political conference provided for in Article 60 of the draft armistice agreement already accepted by the military negotiators at Panmunjom.

7. It is my earnest hope that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China will accept these proposals of the General Assembly as a basis for the solution of the one remaining issue which has prevented the conclusion of an armistice during the negotiations at Panmunjom. Once this issue is solved, it will become possible to bring the fighting to an end and complete the programme for a peaceful settlement in Korea leading, we must hope, towards a more general settlement which would contribute to peace in Asia and in the world.

8. The United Nations is determined to do everything possible to bring the fighting to an end in Korea. This is also the declared aim of the Central People's Government. This common aim can be achieved if the proposals which are now submitted for your consideration are, as I earnestly hope will be the case, accepted in the spirit in which they are put forward. In this hope, as president of the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations I appeal to you to accept these proposals of the United Nations as forming a just and reasonable basis for an agreement which will serve to bring about a constructive and durable peace in Korea.

9. I shall look forward to receiving as soon as possible your reply to this communication, which I shall report to the General Assembly when it is received.

10. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, the text of the resolution has also been communicated to the North Korean authorities, to whom I am sending a similar message.

11. Please accept, sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

LESTER B. PEARSON  
President  
General Assembly.

His Excellency,  
Mr. Chou En-lai,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Central  
People's Government of the People's  
Republic of China,  
PEKING, China