

The draft resolution proposed by the U.S.S.R., resolving that the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea should be abolished, was rejected by 42 to 6 with 3 abstentions.

During the lengthy general debate in Committee the Canadian representative offered to forego the privilege of speaking and, in the interest of securing a decision on the question before the Committee adjourned its present session, proposed that the general debate should be closed. The proposal was adopted by 35 to 6 with 2 abstentions.

By a vote of 41 to 0 with 1 abstention, the Committee adopted a proposal by the representative of the United States of America that the Commission on Korea should consist of the same member states which composed the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. The representatives of the Byelo-Russian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Yugoslavia did not take part in the vote. The representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, in addition, stated that his Government would not take part in any activities of the Commission provided for in the draft resolution. The Canadian representative, while stating that Canada would not oppose, at that stage, the proposal regarding the composition of the Commission, suggested the desirability of a smaller Commission.

The General Assembly began discussion of Korea at midnight, December 11, and adjourned at 2 a.m. December 12 to meet at 3 p.m. December 12. At the latter session the Canadian representative presented a statement in which he said that the Canadian Government shared the confidence expressed by the Political Committee in the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea and in the validity of the process by which the Government of the Republic of Korea had been established. He stated Canada's preference for a smaller Commission. Recognition of the Ukraine's refusal to participate in the Commission would reduce the number to eight which would not be a convenient number. He indicated that Canada was prepared to withdraw from the Commission, thus reducing the number to seven. An amendment reducing the number of the Korean Commission to seven as proposed by the Canadian representative was carried 42 to 0 with 3 abstentions. The Soviet bloc did not participate in the voting. The resolution from the Political Committee with this amendment was then passed 48 to 6 with one abstention.

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In April 1949, the Canadian Representative in the Security Council supported the application of the Republic of Korea for admission to the United Nations. In setting forth the reasons for Canada's action the Canadian Representative stated: "The Republic of Korea has accepted the obligations of the Charter. We are satisfied that it is a peace-loving state able and willing to fulfil its obligations. We are, therefore, in full accord with the recommendations of the (Membership) Committee." Although this application was vetoed by the U.S.S.R., the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in a Note dated July 14, informed the Korean Foreign Minister that Canada regarded its favourable vote in the Security Council as constituting full recognition by the Canadian Government of the Republic of Korea as an independent sovereign state with jurisdiction over that part of the Korean peninsula in which elections were held on May 10, 1948.