

and supervised by a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission composed of equal numbers of Communist and non-Communist nations and divorced from the United Nations. Both commissions would operate only by unanimous agreement, and the all-Korean commission would control the entire election procedure. All foreign troops would withdraw from Korea before the elections. This plan would have given the administration of North Korea, which was guilty of aggression and which controls only a minority of the Korean population, equality with the Government of the Republic of Korea and a veto over any action by the all-Korean commission which it did not approve. It would, moreover, have enabled the Chinese Communist forces to remain on the Korean border, while obliging United Nations forces to withdraw across the sea.

The delegations representing countries which participated in the United Nations action in Korea sought to secure agreement that would lead to the establishment of a unified, free Korea on a basis consistent with two principles: (a) that the United Nations was rightly empowered to take collective action to repel aggression and to extend its good offices to seeking a peaceful settlement in Korea, and (b) that the essential first step toward Korean unification was the holding of free elections, impartially and effectively supervised by an international agency acceptable to the United Nations, for a National Assembly in which representation would be in direct proportion to the population in all parts of Korea.

By June 15 it was clear that agreement could not be reached. The United Nations delegations regretfully informed the Communist side that so long as it rejected the two principles considered by the former to be indispensable, no useful purpose would be served by further meetings at Geneva. They made it clear that the failure of the Geneva Conference did not prejudice the Korean armistice, and reiterated their intention of continuing to support the United Nations objective of a unified, independent, and democratic Korea achieved by peaceful means.

In accordance with a recommendation of the General Assembly, they informed the United Nations on November 11 about the proceedings of the conference. In the Political Committee, they sponsored a resolution which called for the Assembly, *inter alia*, to note the provisions by which the Korean Armistice Agreement remained in effect, to approve the report, to re-affirm United Nations objectives in Korea, to express the hope that progress towards these objectives might be made soon, and to request the Secretary-General to place the Korean item on the provisional agenda for the next session. The Political Committee adopted the resolution by a vote of 50 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (the Soviet bloc), and 4 abstentions, and on December 11 the General Assembly meeting in plenary session took the same action by a similar vote.

The Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, visited the Canadian forces in Korea in March.

2. Indochina

While the Geneva Conference was considering the Korean question, separate negotiations were taking place between the interested parties—Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, France, Laos, the People's Republic of China, the State of Vietnam, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States—to conclude