

subterfuge or one in which the rights of the majority were less than that of a minority. On the means of achieving such a union, however, we need not be so rigid. It is the end result not the means of achieving it which matters.

To achieve the reunification we all so devoutly wish, it seems to us that we must recognize certain inescapable factors of the situation. The United Nations, as the Representative of India pointed out yesterday, did not fight in Korea to achieve unification by force; it fought there for the declared purpose of repelling aggression. We are not, therefore, faced with a situation in which we can impose a settlement. The settlement will have to be negotiated just as an armistice was negotiated. Such negotiations are inevitably prolonged and frustrating, but we have had a remarkable degree of success in hammering out under the aegis of the United Nations agreements which have provided a framework for peaceful adjustments and eventual settlements. This is the most honorable work of this United Nations, the process of conciliation and pacification, and we must not back away from it. If there is to be any hope of success, we must make it clear to all concerned that we shall seize any honorable opportunity of seeking a solution and that we are not forever bound by formulas which have been established in the past. Useful work was done at Geneva and some useful work has been done since, but we don't think we should forever stand on a position that the Geneva proposals are a final ultimatum. There are, as I said before, certain things on which we must never yield in any negotiations, the most important of which is that the government chosen for a united Korea truly represent the free choice of all citizens of Korea. However, we should not object if some one should produce new and satisfactory proposals which were not necessarily in strict accordance with what we thought to be the best procedure in 1954. It would certainly have to be a procedure acceptable to this Assembly, but we trust that this Assembly would welcome any procedure which would do the job safely and satisfactorily.

We cannot forget the crime that was committed in Korea by the Communist forces and we could not accept any implications that there is moral - or even substantial - equality between the Republic of Korea and the regime in North Korea. What we are now seeking to do, however, is not to pass an historical judgment but to repair the shattered state of Korea. This is the peacetime phase of the Korean question in which we must deal with the political realities as they exist. It was for these reasons that my delegation did not wish to oppose the Indian proposal yesterday to admit as observers representatives of North as well as South Korea. Although we remain duly sceptical of the good faith of the North Koreans, we consider that if there is to be unification we shall have to gather into the process of negotiations all those in Korea who must be a party to the settlement.