

But a specific example of the humanitarianism of the United Nations Command, as compared to the callousness of their opponents, is afforded by an examination of the efforts of the former to arrange for the immediate repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners. This is called for under Article 109 of the Geneva Convention and was indeed urged upon all parties to the conflict last December by the League of Red Cross Societies. Meeting in Geneva on December 13, 1952, the Executive Committee of this international body voted a resolution with these substantive paragraphs:

"Appeals once again to the countries concerned not to rest content until ways and means are found which would bring about a cessation of these hostilities:

"Asks the belligerents as a gesture of good will to take immediate action in implementing the Geneva Conventions by repatriating the sick and wounded prisoners of war in accordance with the appropriate articles of the Geneva Conventions;

"Reaffirms that the services of the League are as always at the disposal of the world in the field of service to mankind which is so specifically theirs".

But, before the passage of this resolution by the League in December of last year, the United Nations Command had tried in vain to effect an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners. As early as December 1951, the United Nations armistice negotiators at Panmunjom, we are informed, made specific proposals for such an exchange to the North Korean and Chinese representatives, but their efforts met with no success. They persisted, nevertheless, in repeating the offer several times during January and March 1952. This humanitarian gesture was dismissed by the North Koreans and Chinese as a delaying device.

The United Nations Commander, General Clark, reiterated the Unified Command's position in this matter on February 21 last by means of a formal communication addressed to the North Korean and Chinese commanders. After referring to the plea of the League of Red Cross Societies, he asked to be informed whether the opposing commanders were prepared to proceed immediately with the repatriation of seriously sick and wounded captured personnel, and expressed readiness to make the necessary arrangements, through his liaison officers at Panmunjom, for a mutual exchange. I am not aware that he has received any reply. It is difficult to imagine why such an offer should not be accepted by anyone truly concerned with the welfare of prisoners-of-war. I should hope that the Communist Command will see fit to give a satisfactory reply either to General Clark or to his liaison officers in Panmunjom.

I wish to revert briefly to the outbreak of the Korean war, since we have had to listen again this morning, yesterday and the day before, to denials of the North Korean aggression. We are satisfied beyond any doubt that the North Korean forces committed aggression upon the Republic of Korea. The United