

this matter can most effectively be made through the Committee of Good Offices, rather than by having the Council act as a sort of court of justice in deciding between the charges and counter-charges of the two parties. The success or failure of these negotiations depends very largely on what takes place in Indonesia and the efforts of the Committee of Good Offices established there. This does not mean that the Canadian Government is of the opinion that the Council should not consider very seriously any charges made against the good faith of either party in carrying out the Renville Agreement. The Security Council has now a serious moral responsibility with regard to the solution of the Indonesian question and it cannot adopt a policy of indifference if such charges are made. Briefly, then, the position of the Canadian Government in this matter is to press for a policy by which the Council will give the full weight of its moral support to the Committee of Good Offices in its efforts to help the parties achieve a political settlement in Indonesia.

(f) The Independence of Korea

45. Korea was originally promised its freedom and independence at the Cairo Conference in December, 1943, by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and China. This promise was reaffirmed in the Potsdam Declaration of July, 1945, and subscribed to by the Soviet Union when it entered the war against Japan.

46. A declaration concerning the independence of Korea was made at the Moscow Conference in December, 1945, by the Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States and this was later endorsed by the Government of China. As a first step, it was there agreed to establish a joint United States - Soviet Commission which was to consult with the Korean people and to decide on methods for establishing a provisional Korean Government. It was planned to establish a four-power trusteeship for Korea for a period of up to five years before absolute independence was granted.

47. As is well known, the objective of the Moscow Agreement was never achieved due to the inability of the United States and Soviet representatives to co-operate. As a result, Korea was temporarily divided at the 38th parallel, with the Soviet authorities administering the north and the United States authorities the south. The joint commission established by the Moscow Agreement met only a few times and failed to agree on any question of importance.

48. In view of the failure of the joint commission to make any progress, the United States next proposed the convening of a four-power conference to discuss the problem of the independence of Korea. The Soviet Union did not accept this invitation and the United States brought the whole problem to the attention of the United Nations at its second regular session in September, 1947. The United States representative at that time stated that his Government did not wish to have the inability of the two powers to reach agreement delay any further the urgent and rightful claims of the Korean people to independence.

49. In the General Assembly, the Soviet representative proposed the withdrawal of all Soviet and other occupation troops in Korea at the beginning of 1948 so that the Korean people might establish a national government without foreign interference. This proposal was not acceptable to a great majority of the members of the United Nations. On the other hand, the United States representative introduced a resolution proposing to set up a United Nations temporary commission to observe national elections and to consult with the elected representatives regarding the prompt attainment of independence by the Korean people.