

3. This new Assembly succeeded the Republic's first National Assembly, which had been elected in May 1948 under the supervision of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. Unlike the 1948 elections, which "middle-of-the-road" parties boycotted for fear that elections in only half of Korea would make permanent the artificial barrier at the 38th parallel, all parties except the underground Communist participated in the 1950 elections. Although the two largest parties in the previous Assembly, one pro-Government and the other opposition, both suffered heavy losses and the most significant gains were made by those moderate elements which had boycotted the 1948 elections, the new Assembly with some 130 Independents out of a total of 210 members, convened on 19 June 1950 in a hopeful atmosphere conducive to continued progress in the building of an effective representative Government in an economically healthy State. The initial sessions have indicated determination to tackle the Administration in a critical spirit for its numerous shortcomings.

4. At the beginning of June the North Korean regime's Pyongyang radio gave the widest publicity to an article calling for intensification of measures aimed at unifying Korea, and on 3 June a *communiqué* stated that the signing by 5,300,000 Northerners of an appeal for peace and unification meant that a renewed struggle for national unification was beginning.

5. On 7 June Radio Pyongyang began to broadcast at repeated intervals a Letter of Appeal from the Democratic Front for Attainment of Unification of the Fatherland to all democratic political parties and social organizations in Korea proposing elections throughout Korea following the meeting of a proposed consultative council.

6. The tone of the appeal indicated an ostensible change in the North's previous attitude in spite of such conditions as the exclusion from the Council, as traitors, of nine top leaders in the South Korean Government, and a statement that the United Nations Commission on Korea would not be permitted to interfere in the task of unification. Included among the addresses, the Commission sent a representative across the parallel to receive the text of the appeal on 10 June and to convey personally to three Northern representatives the Commission's desire for peaceful unification.

7. The three Northern representatives came south the next day carrying copies for all but a few of the leading parties and political personalities of the Republic. They were immediately placed under detention by the South Korean authorities, who have since tried to induce them to switch sides by showing the facts in the South. The Southern action of detaining "envoys of peace" has been denounced violently by the Northern radio. At a hearing the Commission was assured by all three Northern representatives of their good treatment by the Southern authorities and of their sincere belief in the good intentions of the Northern regime, though admitting that their eyes had been opened through direct observation to numerous Northern misconceptions of fact on political personalities of the Republic.

8. The President of the Republic of Korea took the occasion of denouncing the appeal to reiterate the South Korean position on peaceful unification. He urged once again the holding of free elections in North Korea under the observation of the United Nations Commission after which 100 Assemblymen from the