

nest they are stirring up and to advise them in all sincerity that the greatest contribution which they could make at the present time to the improvement of the international atmosphere and to comply with the Resolution of this General Assembly and, in accordance with the Armistice Agreement, to release these men.

We all recall that at the seventh Session of the General Assembly our collective efforts were devoted to seeking a resolution of the difficult problem involving prisoners of war which had been holding up the Korean Armistice. It was our duty then to make these efforts because fighting was continuing in Korea, and hundreds of thousands of men - from both sides - were languishing in prisoner of war camps. The General Assembly's resolution of December 3, 1953, which received almost unanimous support would pave the way for a solution of this prisoner of war question consistent not merely with legal texts but with the most deeply rooted humanitarian principles. That resolution and that settlement required the mobilization of world public opinion in this forum. This, along with persistence and patience in continuing negotiations outside the United Nations with the other side, finally made an Armistice in Korea possible. Like the larger issue which has now been settled, the case of these eleven prisoners is now before us a challenge to our deepest convictions as to the rights of human beings. This draft resolution results from that feeling, and that is another reason why we think it should be included in our agenda.

There are also, however, wider considerations involved in this matter. After the cessation of the fighting in Korea and later Indochina, many of us hoped that there would be a lessening of tension in Asia and that we might make some progress towards a settlement of outstanding issues in that part of the world which would remove, or at least reduce, a threat to peace and security. Among these issues is the renewal in recent months of the fighting in the Formosa Strait, which has caused such grave anxiety. We had hoped that here, as in Korea and in Indochina, some modus vivendi might be found to stop the fighting and pave the way for further easing of tension.

Delegates will have noticed how in recent weeks the President of the United States and other responsible spokesmen of the Government of the United States have expressed their desire to seek ways of reducing such tension. In this connection, it is worthwhile recalling President Eisenhower's remarks on December 2 when he said, "The great hope of mankind is that we can find methods and means of progressing a little bit, even if by little steps, toward a true or real peace, and that we do not go progressively toward war."

It was that moment that the Peking Government chose to announce the punishment and imprisonment of the American airmen, a move which served only to exacerbate feelings, to increase tensions and to make more difficult the settlement of outstanding issues in the Far East. This United Nations Assembly has, in my view, a