

with a cease-fire and proceeding logically, through a Korean settlement, to a more general discussion of other Far Eastern questions.

I think that it is even possible, under this draft resolution, that the conference envisaged might find itself involved in a discussion of general questions before any progress whatever had been made towards arranging a cease-fire. This, as we see it, would sacrifice a basic principle, to stop the fighting first before negotiation of other questions can begin, a basic principle which has been firmly adhered to, throughout our discussions of this problem, by my own delegation and many others. For these reasons, my delegation is not able to support this resolution as it has been presented to us.

The second draft resolution, proposed by the United States of America, finds that the People's Government of China has engaged in aggression in Korea. If this resolution is pressed to a vote without further consideration of other measures, delegations will have to take a decision in regard to it, and that decision is not as easy or as simple for my delegation as it seems to be for some other delegations around this table. We feel that it has to be taken not only with a full acceptance of our sense of responsibility under the Charter -- and we all have that sense of responsibility -- but also with a clear understanding of its implications and where they may lead us; and finally, in recognition that none of us has any right to feel that his duty is automatically discharged merely by joining in some form of moral condemnation.

It has been said by some speakers in this Committee that if the United Nations does not do its duty in condemning the aggressor in this case, it will go the way of the League of Nations when it defaulted over Ethiopia, and it will deserve to do so. In my opinion, however, the fatal blow to the League of Nations was not struck when it refused to call fascist Italy an aggressor -- I was there at the time and I remember that it did so in eloquent and ringing terms -- but the fatal blow was struck when its members gave the world the hope and belief that this declaration would be followed by effective action -- and my own Government was one of those concerned -- and then betrayed that hope and debased that belief by running out on their obligations to take such action.

It may be right and necessary to pass a moral judgment on the aggressor, even if there exists a situation such as the possibility of another and far more dangerous aggressor which may affect the enforcement of that judgment; it may be right and necessary to do that providing we recognize the circumstances and state the position accordingly. That course is honest and straightforward. But we have, I think, on the other hand, no right to pass a judgment and at the same time give the impression that we can and will immediately and effectively enforce it no matter what the consequences may be, if we are not prepared to do that.

Holding these views, I would like to give the opinion of my delegation in regard to the United States resolution. My Government believes, with other governments, that the primary purpose of the United Nations is to