

APPENDIX 10

Statement by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, June 30, 1950

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a further brief report to the House with regard to our relationship to the present situation in Korea.

As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) said yesterday, our responsibility in this matter arises entirely from our membership in the United Nations and from our support of the resolution of the Security Council passed on Tuesday last, part of which reads as follows:

"The Security Council. . . Recommends that the members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area."

Any participation by Canada in carrying out the foregoing resolution—and I wish to emphasize this strongly—would not be participation in war against any state. It would be our part in collective police action under the control and authority of the United Nations for the purpose of restoring peace to an area where an aggression has occurred as determined under the Charter of the United Nations by the Security Council, which decision has been accepted by us. It is only in such circumstances that this country would be involved in action of this kind. The House, I think, has already approved this position.

I would add, however, that if we are informed that a Canadian contribution to aid United Nations operations, under a United Nations commander, would be important to achieve the ends of peace, which is of course our only purpose, then the Government wishes Parliament to know that it would immediately consider making such a contribution. It might, for instance, take the form of destroyers to operate with other naval units of the United Nations, though our destroyers could not in any event reach Korean waters in less than about three weeks' time, because after all it is more than six thousand miles from Esquimalt.

Hon. members will recall that our naval units there were to proceed to European waters for summer exercises. These arrangements will be suspended, and the move will now be made into western Pacific waters, where the ships would be closer to the area where they might be of assistance to the United Nations and Korea if such assistance were required. If the situation in Korea or elsewhere, after prorogation, should deteriorate and action by Canada beyond that which I have indicated should be considered, Parliament will immediately be summoned to give the new situation consideration.

Meanwhile the Government, within the mandate which the attitude of the House in the last two days has given it, will do its full duty, within the measure of its power and ability, as a member of the United Nations, in common with other members, to make the collective action of the United Nations effective, and to restore peace in Korea.*

*The text of this statement by the Prime Minister was transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, under covering note from the Acting Permanent Delegate of Canada to the United Nations, on June 30, 1950.