

do everything humanly possible to secure their release in accordance with the terms of an Armistice Agreement binding both sides. In all we say or do here, I am sure that we should and will have this principal objective in mind.

Our purpose is to bring home to the Chinese Communist authorities our very urgent and grave concern about this matter. This concern is, I am sure, shared by many Governments and peoples who did not participate in the Korean war, who have often declared their intention of remaining outside of what has been called the "cold war", and whose foreign policies cannot be remotely considered as aimed against the Communist powers, and who -- notwithstanding the statement of the Soviet Delegate this afternoon -- are satellites of no power or powers.

In this connection I am glad that in the draft resolution which my delegation is co-sponsoring for inclusion in our agenda, and for which we are seeking inscription, we are asking the Secretary-General to seek the release of these men in the name of the United Nations. The Secretary-General would, if this item is included on the agenda, in accordance with the present terms of our resolution, be asked to report progress to all members before the end of this year. We hope he will by then be able to report some success; but if his mission has not by that time been completed, he would, in accordance with the terms of this resolution, submitted for inclusion, be asked to continue his efforts. We have the greatest confidence in our Secretary-General and we consider that he should be given adequate time and full latitude to decide himself on the means most appropriate in his judgment for fulfilling the important and difficult mission which is included in this resolution.

If this item is inscribed and carried it would make possible the transmission by the Secretary-General to the Government of the Chinese Peoples Republic not only this resolution but a solemn appeal for the release of these men whose only crime was that as soldiers they carried out faithfully their duty to the United Nations, to whose command they belonged and to the country whose uniform they were wearing when captured. It is hard to believe that such an appeal will not find some response in the hearts of those to whom it would be directed.

The Soviet and Czech Representatives in opposing inscription of this item, have emphasized the unfortunate effect which this incident is having upon international relations generally and how it is "poisoning the atmosphere" which had earlier in this session shown signs of improving. No one regrets and deplores any such change in the political atmosphere more than our delegation but I think the Soviet Delegate would be more honest if he were to direct his complaints and regrets to Peking. He would indeed be doing a service to peace if he let the Chinese Communist Government know what a hornets'