

## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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### CANADIAN POSITION ON KOREA

As expressed by the Canadian Representative to the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Paul Martin, in the Political Committee, August 19, 1953.

With the end of the fighting in Korea we can at last turn our attention to the more constructive task of peace-making. At this resumed session I think it is now generally agreed that questions of substance are not our present concern and that they should be left to the Political Conference. Our sole responsibility is to see that the Political Conference recommended in the armistice agreement gets off to as good a start as it is humanly possible to achieve. This is our new challenge, as Mr. Lodge has called it. We may indeed have reached a turning point, as Mr. Selwyn Lloyd put it yesterday morning, not only in Korean affairs, but in a much larger sense. It is our duty not only to effect the most practical arrangements for the Conference we can contrive, but at the same time to do our best, in so far as it lies within our power, to create the most favourable atmosphere for these important negotiations.

If we fail, or achieve anything less, our efforts will have been unworthy of those who served and died so that the United Nations might live.

I add here my tribute to the dead of many lands who fought for freedom. We begin our work of peace-making in the shadow of the sorrow and loss of those in Canada and in other lands who have been bereaved. History will also acknowledge the special debt that the Korean people and the United Nations itself owes to the United States, who of all the members of the United Nations led the way in providing the Korean armed forces with prompt and effective assistance and throughout bore, together with the gallant forces of South Korea, the brunt of the fighting. The courage of the United States Government in its initial reaction to the aggression of June 25, 1950, and its patience and persistence throughout the interminable armistice negotiations is renewed proof of the strength and greatness of this country we know as friend and neighbour.

Mr. Chairman, all that the United Nations ever undertook to do by armed force has been accomplished. The aggression has been repelled. But our success remains partial, for we also set ourselves the aim of achieving by peaceful means an independent, unified and democratic Korea. This has not yet been accomplished. But this fact does not mean that the armistice agreement is conditional, this period is not war's respite, but the necessary interval between the signing of the armistice and the commencement of the Political Conference provided for in the armistice agreement.