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MR. PEARSON AT GENEVA

foreign armed forces stationed in Asian countries withdrawn. It would be interesting to know whether he includes in this sweeping generalization the Russians in Port Arthur.

"In his second statement, made yesterday, Mr. Chou En-lai brought up the question of prisoners-of-war. It is difficult to understand why, if he is sincere in his desire to press forward with a peaceful solution of the Korean problems.

"We all know of the efforts made last winter at Panmunjom, under the skilful and impartial administration of Indian representatives, and the direction of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, to give all prisoners the opportunity of making up their own minds whether to return to communism or not. We know also that this question has now been settled - and to reopen it at this Conference would serve no useful purpose.

FATE OF PRISONERS

"If the Geneva Convention is cited by the leader of the Chinese delegation, I would remind him of the thousands of South Korean prisoners who disappeared without a trace shortly after capture; of the failure to account for many United Nations prisoners, of the refusal to allow the Red Cross to visit them, or to give information concerning them, of the cruel treatment and torturing interrogations to which many of them were subjected.

"While, Mr. Chairman, the questions I have been raising are all important, our primary concern at this conference is a peace settlement for Korea. On that subject the leader of the North Korean delegation has presented a number of proposals which have been endorsed by the delegations of the People's Republic of China and the U.S.S.R. Those proposals have not, however, been adequately defined or explained. My delegation is not alone in its suspicion that they include words and phrases designed to camouflage a scheme which would bring to Korea the reverse of freedom and independence.

"It is clear, Mr. Chairman, that the most superficial examination of the North Korean proposals, with its veto provisions for the All-Korean Commission, with its rejection of free elections, guaranteed by impartial and effective outside international supervision, with the voters in North Korea, for instance, left to the tender mercies of the communist governmental machinery in expressing their views, it is clear that such an examination of these proposals shows that they provide no hope for bringing about a free, united and democratic Korea.

"Such hope lies in the acceptance by this conference of the principles laid down by United Nations resolutions for the solution of this problem; principles accepted by the vast

majority of the nations of the world. These provide for a union of all the Korean people, under a government chosen by those people.

"This united Korea will need some international guarantee against aggression. It will also require, and be entitled to, economic assistance from other countries to repair the cruel devastation and destruction of war.

"If these peaceful purposes are not achieved by a just, honourable and negotiated settlement, the consequences will be bad, and probably far-reaching. Failure here may well necessitate further collective consideration by those who, as a result of such failure, will feel increasingly threatened, of further ways and means to meet that threat. This, in its turn, may harden and make more dangerous the great and tragic division in the world which now exists.

"The reward for success at Geneva will be great in terms of peaceful progress; but the penalty of failure may be even greater in terms of increasing tensions and the risk of a war which would engulf and destroy us all."

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DOMINION DRAMA FESTIVAL: An opening night audience of more than 2,000 persons in formal attire saw the Hamilton Players' Guild presentation of "Rebecca" at Hamilton, Ont., on May 10. It was the first of eight plays presented this week.

Governor General Vincent Massey, patron and first President of the Festival, welcomed the audience and the players.

Mr. Hugh Hunt, adjudicator, predicted a brilliant future for the legitimate theatre in Canada in his commentary.

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EMBASSY IN HAITI: The Department of External Affairs announced on May 12 that the Government of Canada and the Government of Haiti have agreed to exchange diplomatic missions.

The first Haitian consular office in Canada was opened in 1880, when an honorary consul of Haiti was appointed in Halifax. In 1944, the Consulate General of Haiti was established in Ottawa. Since 1921, Canada has been represented in Haiti by non-resident trade commissioners.

Canadian relations with Haiti have become of increasing importance in recent years and it is now desired to establish, before the end of 1954, an Embassy of Canada at Port-au-Prince, and an Embassy of Haiti at Ottawa.

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WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on April 14 totalled 351,601,000 bushels, slightly below the preceding week's 352,810,000 bushels, but up 23% from last year's 270,413,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.