

No. 53/62 UNITED NATIONS KOREAN RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY

Text of a statement given on December 2, 1953, by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. David M. Johnson, in the Second Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 18 - Report of the United Nations Agent-General for Korean Reconstruction.

Note: Voting results and the resolution adopted are given at the end of the statement.

The statement which has just been made to us by the Agent-General for Korean reconstruction has been a clear and forceful account of the achievements of the agency up to the present time, of the difficulties which it has faced thus far, and of the problems which lie before it. I am sure that I shall speak on behalf of the Committee when I express our thanks to General Coulter for having returned from Korea in order to lay his report before us and for having given us this valuable outline of the position in which the agency now stands.

As Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Agent-General, I am especially pleased to introduce to this Committee the resolution contained in Document A/C.2/L218, which my delegation has co-sponsored with the delegations of Argentina, France, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States and by which the General Assembly would approve subject to consultation between the Agent-General and the Advisory Committee, the programmes for 1953-54 and 1954-55 set out in the report of the Agent-General (Document A/2543). It is the hope of the sponsors of this resolution that it will receive unanimous support and that this session of the General Assembly will thereby reaffirm the intention of the United Nations, as stated in Resolution 410 (V) of December 1, 1950, and as again set forth by the President of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly, upon the conclusion of the Korean armistice on July 26, 1953, "to assist the Korean people, to relieve their sufferings, and to repair the devastation in their country".

The details of the present financial situation of the agency are clearly set out in the report and have been amplified by the Agent-General himself in his statement. It is not my intention, therefore, to dwell on them at length, since they speak for themselves. The Canadian Government, as the Committee is probably aware, pledged toward the original target of \$250 million established by the Negotiating Committee in 1950 \$7,250,000 Canadian, a pledge which has been honoured in full. I should perhaps add here, parenthetically, that the Canadian Delegation will not be in a position to indicate Canada's probable response to any extended programme until the Canadian Government has considered the extent to which it is prepared to assume new financial commitments to meet UNKRA requirements beyond the original