

which in spite of Soviet objections invited the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to send a representative who would participate as an observer in the Committee's consideration of the question. The Committee also rejected a Soviet proposal that the North Korean regime be invited to send an observer. Canada voted with the majority in both cases.

Four resolutions came before the Committee for consideration. The first, co-sponsored by twenty-one delegations, including the Canadian, commended the efforts already made by the negotiators and called upon the Peking and North Korean authorities to agree to an armistice which would recognize the right of all prisoners of war to an unrestricted opportunity to be repatriated and would avoid the use of force in their repatriation. Two resolutions submitted respectively by the Mexican and Peruvian Delegations, which dealt with special aspects of the issue, were also based on the principle of voluntary repatriation. The Soviet Delegation, after rejecting the twenty-one power resolution on the grounds that it would lead to an extension of the war, and that "no forcible repatriation" amounted to "forcible detention," introduced a resolution providing for the establishment of a commission "for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question." As finally revised, it called for an immediate cease-fire and referred "the question of the complete repatriation of prisoners of war" to the proposed commission, to be composed of eleven states, four of them communist. Decisions in the Commission were to be by a two-thirds majority; thus the communist group would have been able to block any action if it so wished.

It became apparent during debate that none of these four resolutions was likely to receive a large majority, and on November 19 Mr. Krishna Menon of the Indian Delegation introduced a new resolution, explaining that its object was to bridge the two conflicting points of view which had appeared in the course of discussion. Thus it proposed that the repatriation of prisoners should be effected in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 and that force should not be used either to prevent or to carry out the return of prisoners to their homelands.

This resolution, which the Canadian Delegation supported from the beginning, was clarified by amendment during a long debate and attracted growing support. The Soviet Representative, however, declared it unacceptable and later tabled amendments which would have made it virtually the same as the Soviet proposal. The Committee rejected these amendments, adopted the Indian resolution as otherwise amended and rejected the Soviet resolution. The other resolutions submitted by non-communist states were not formally withdrawn, but consideration of them was suspended by agreement. On December 3, 1952 the Assembly adopted the Indian resolution, as further clarified by the sponsor, by a vote of 54 in favour (including Canada) 5 against (the Soviet bloc) and one abstention (Nationalist China), rejecting the Soviet amendment and the Soviet resolution which had both been re-introduced, the latter by a vote of 40 against (including Canada), 5 in favour (the Soviet bloc), and 11 abstentions, four delegations being absent.