

Another Commission sub-committee examined documents received from Korean sources and secured statements from prominent Korean personalities whose views might be helpful to the Commission in its observation of the elections.

A third sub-committee, of which the Canadian representative was a member, examined the electoral laws and regulations in force in Korea, and prepared draft recommendations for the Commission, for transmission to the authorities. These recommendations were designed to promote as complete and as free an expression of popular will as possible in the elections and the Commission approved them with certain amendments. In a memorandum of March 24, the United States Liaison Officer to the Commission stated that the election regulations had been redrafted on the basis of these suggestions.

To observe the preparations for the elections in the field, the Commission during April divided itself into groups for inspection tours into the various provinces of South Korea. Detailed inquiries were made into the existence of a free atmosphere for elections and when unsatisfactory conditions were encountered the Military Governor was later informed.

As a result of its observations and studies the Commission on April 28 confirmed its decision of March 12 to observe the elections and stated that it had satisfied itself that there existed in South Korea a reasonably free atmosphere. During the debate the Canadian representative indicated his appreciation of the United States efforts to secure free conditions for the elections.

The elections were duly held on May 10 under Commission observation.

In the middle of May the main body of the Commission proceeded to Shanghai to prepare the first part of its report. It returned to Seoul on June 7 after the newly-elected Korean National Assembly had been convened there.

On June 25, the Commission unanimously recorded its opinion that the results of the ballot of May 10 were a valid expression of the free will of the electorate in South Korea.

The Commission received formal notification on August 6 that the "Government of the Republic of Korea" had been formed. The letter containing this information requested Commission consultation "particularly with reference to paragraph 4 of Resolution II of November 14, 1947". Some members took the view that the Government could not be regarded as the Government envisaged in the General Assembly resolutions and that the Commission should not prejudice the position of the General Assembly by acceding to the request for consultation. The Commission, however, on August 14 voted, 4 to 2 with one abstention, to comply with the request.

Two days earlier the United States Government had announced its view that the new government "was entitled to be regarded as the Government of Korea envisaged by the General Assembly resolutions of November 14, 1947", and the Chinese and Philippine Governments also accorded provisional recognition. Canada, like most other states, reserved any decision on recognition pending the submission to the General Assembly of the report of the Korean Commission.