

GOVERNMENT



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INDEX TO INSIDE PAGES

Geneva Conference	1-2-3-4	End Korea Airlift	6
Canada-Portugal Trade Pact	4	Freight Movement Down	6
Good Will Visit	4	Rhine Radio Link	6
Foreign Trade Down	5	Gen. Gruenther's Visit	6
Canada-U.S. Trade	5	U.S. Industrial Visitors	6
Signs Rome Convention	5	Industrial Employment	6

WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

GENEVA CONFERENCE: The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, reported to Parliament and the people of Canada on May 28 about his recent trip to Europe, during which he attended the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, the subcommittee of the Disarmament Committee of the United Nations, and the Geneva Conference on Far Eastern Affairs. His address in the House of Commons dealt for the most part with the Geneva conference.

After outlining the communist "peace plan" for Korea, which he described as, "a scheme designed to provide for the establishment of an interim government, along the pattern of the communist proposals in Germany, in which the communist representatives would hold the power of veto", he placed on the record, as follows, the Canadian views of what should be done to reach a good Korean settlement:

"First, a unified Korea should preserve the state structure for Korea which has been endorsed by the United Nations, with such constitutional changes as might be necessary to establish an all-Korean Government.

"Second, the people of Korea should be given an opportunity to express their views as to their future Government and for that purpose there should be held, with a minimum of delay, free and fair elections for a national assembly and possibly also for a president.

"Third, the conditions for such elections should include equitable representation by population over the whole of Korea.

"Fourth, to ensure that such elections should be fair and free, they should be supervised by an international agency agreed on, if possible, by the Geneva Conference but acceptable to the United Nations. In order to ensure maximum objectivity - and that is going quite a long way to meet the views of the other side - we felt that this supervisory agency might consist of nations which do not belong to the communist bloc and which did not participate in military operations in Korea.

"Fifth, arrangements should be made for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea by stages, that withdrawal to be completed in a short period, to be fixed by the Conference, after the post-election all-Korean Government had begun effectively to function; in other words, withdrawal might begin at once by both sides and be completed within a short time after the Korean Government had begun to function.

"Sixth, a reaffirmation of international responsibility under the United Nations to participate in the relief and rehabilitation of Korea through economic and material assistance. Finally, an international guarantee under the auspices of the United Nations of the territorial integrity of unified, free and democratic Korea."

If the Korean Conference at Geneva could not succeed in bringing about unification of that land he thought "it would be wise . . . to suspend, not to terminate the Conference and to agree to look at the problem again some