

authorized arose directly out of the responsibilities of the United States generally for the maintenance of international peace and security in the Pacific area, and specifically for the maintenance of the security of Japan as the power responsible for its occupation. It was his understanding that United States forces were under instruction not to operate beyond the 38th parallel in Korea. If elements of Soviet personnel were to appear south of that parallel, a completely different situation would be created and new action would then have to be considered on the part of the United States Government. Summing up, Kennan emphasized that the United States Government took the view that it was dealing with a purely local situation involving a disturbance of international peace and security resulting from an attack by dissidents in Korea against the properly established Government, the Republic of Korea. They were acting in the spirit of the United Nations resolution which called upon all members of the United Nations "to render every assistance to the United Nations" in the execution of the resolution adopted by the Security Council last Sunday.

10. In the course of the brief discussion which followed, one or two points of interest came up which are worth reporting. On the timing of the United States decision, Kennan stressed the serious practical difficulties involved in co-ordinating the many civil and military authorities under the United States system of Government, both in Washington and in the area involved. This accounted for the fact that the United States Government had been unable to consult with friendly nations before taking their decision. Events, moreover, had developed so quickly and the military situation had deteriorated so rapidly that Kennan expressed some doubt whether even now the action which would be taken would restore the situation in South Korea. He said that orders had already gone out to General MacArthur during the course of the night to take the military action authorized in the President's statement and the United States representative in Formosa had already received his instructions to approach Chiang.

11. Having in mind your views regarding timing of the President's statement in relation to Security Council action, I asked about the State Department's view of the legal basis for the action announced in the President's statement in relation to the Security Council resolution adopted last Sunday and the resolution to be introduced this afternoon. Kennan admitted that the question of legality might indeed be raised, but explained that the United States Government regarded itself as fully covered by the previous Security Council resolution calling upon "all members of the United Nations to render every assistance to the United Nations". As the only country with forces available in immediate proximity to the area in which international peace and security had thus been disturbed, and also having in mind the primary responsibility of the United States for the security of Japan as well as for the general peace and stability in that part of the Pacific, the United States Government felt it had no alternative but to take the action now authorized as a measure of assistance to the United Nations in restoring and maintaining international peace and security in the area affected.

12. Some reference was also made to the implications of the events in Korea upon security in Europe. Kennan mentioned that the State Department had received messages from Paris and The Hague expressing concern that the attack in Korea