

COLLECTIVE MEASURES:

Experience in Korea has shown that collective security can be effective. Despite the many difficulties encountered in achieving collective action, the United Nations forces have repelled aggression in Korea and, in so doing, have deterred aggression elsewhere. Their action has revived faith in collective security. This faith has been increased by the extent of co-operation and the success achieved in common aims by the member states of NATO. Since the beginning of the Korean conflict, study of collective security on a wider basis has been actively pursued in the United Nations.

Canada was one of the fourteen members of the Collective Measures Committee established by the General Assembly at its Fifth Session in 1950 under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. The Committee has concentrated on the preparedness of states, and on techniques, machinery and procedures relating to the co-ordination of national and international actions. It has dealt primarily with the political, economic, financial and military measures which would be involved in collective action by the United Nations. It has studied the problems involved in the planning of embargoes against aggressors, and it has examined the financial aspects of sharing the burden of collective measures. An effort has also been made to improve the security machinery of the United Nations. For example, a section in the "Uniting for Peace" resolution makes it possible for the General Assembly to take action on a breach of the peace if the Security Council is blocked by the veto. A recommendation has also been adopted that each member state should maintain elements within its own armed forces which could be made available as a UN unit.

TENSIONS REFLECTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS:

Tensions and divisions that exist throughout the world are faithfully reflected in the United Nations. The fundamental cleavage is that between the Soviet world and the free nations. It is this conflict of interests and ideals which made NATO necessary, gave rise to the Korean crisis, and keeps the world in a continuing state of tension. In the face of the current cleavage between the Soviet world and the free world, there have been suggestions that the United Nations should be so re-organized as to leave out the Soviet and its satellites.

Pursuit of this line of approach, however, would only solidify the cleavage and heighten suspicions and fears on both sides. While the policy of the Soviet group seems designed to frustrate the achievement of United Nations objectives, this does not alter the fact that the rest of us in the United Nations can work together, however slowly and painfully, toward the ideal of nations living together under the rule of law. By reason of its universal character, the United Nations, as it stands today, keeps alive the idea of a human community--however remote from reality that idea may sometimes seem. Nor should it be forgotten that the United Nations still provides the only continuing point of contact between East and West, as well as a meeting-ground for contact with some of the free countries which do not wish to align themselves categorically with either side.