

had been frustrated by the refusal of the Soviet Union to accept the procedures laid down by the General Assembly at its Third, Fourth and Fifth Sessions.<sup>1</sup> The Temporary Commission established by the Assembly in 1947 was re-established in 1948 as the United Nations Commission on Korea, with instructions to continue its efforts to achieve the unification of South and North Korea. In October 1949, the Assembly decided that the Commission should be given additional authority to appoint observers to assist it in reporting on "developments which might lead to, or otherwise involve, military conflict in Korea". Further efforts to engage in negotiations with the North Koreans failed to elicit any response, however, and the Commission was able to do no more than concentrate on carrying out the Assembly's instructions so far as they concerned South Korea, and on observing developments along the southern fringe of the 38th parallel.

Because of the unstable situation in the artificially divided peninsula, it had been realized that Korea constituted a potential threat to peace in the area. Nevertheless, the news of the North Korean attack on June 25 came as a profound shock. On the initiative of the United States Government, however, the Security Council was called into session on the same day. The United Nations Commission on Korea having provided authoritative confirmation that aggression had occurred, the Council adopted a resolution calling for the cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of North Korean forces to the 38th parallel. The Soviet Delegation, which had been boycotting the Council over the problem of Chinese representation, was not able to veto this resolution. The resolution also urged members to render every assistance to the United Nations, and to refrain from giving assistance to the North Korean authorities. Two days later, as the North Koreans still advanced, President Truman again took the lead and announced that he was ordering United States air and sea forces to give cover and support to the troops of the Government of the Republic of Korea. Later on the same day, June 27, the Security Council, noting that the North Koreans had ignored its previous resolution, approved a second resolution recommending that "members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security within the area". Naval and air support were promptly offered by member governments with units available in the vicinity, and by June 30 authorization had been given General MacArthur to employ ground forces under his command if the situation required. The fifty-three members of the United Nations which approved the Security Council's stand declared their willingness to comply, in accordance with their individual capacities, with the Council's recommendations. On July 7, the Security Council passed a third resolution recommending that all members providing military forces and other assistance should make them available to "a Unified Command under the United States", and authorizing the use of the United Nations flag in operations against the North Korean forces.

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations, 1948*, pp. 67-72 and *Canada and the United Nations, 1949*, pp. 73-75.