

From there I flew back to Seoul in a helicopter with an open door and perhaps about a hundred feet from the various levels of the surface. It is a terrible country in so far as terrain is concerned, and one cannot see why any one of those hills that were the scene of such bloody battles was of sufficient importance to justify the kind of fights that were made for their possession. They are all the same, but the line has to be held somewhere. This one has no particular strategic importance, but the one behind it has no greater strategic importance. They are all like that, back to the capital city of Seoul. Therefore one appreciates that if there was to be a demonstration of the futility of aggression it had to be made with firmness and it had to be made in that very difficult terrain.

We had dinner with President Rhee, who is not too firmly convinced that the State Department is always right; but I did not get the impression that he was going to do very much about it.

Japan

In Japan we got the same friendly greeting and the same friendly care. I was really touched. I have no doubt, of course, it had been organized, but there were thousands of youngsters from perhaps five to fifteen years of age lining the streets with Canadian and Japanese paper flags, waving them and grinning all over their features, showing every demonstration that it was for them a joyful occasion. Perhaps that was because of the fact that it was during school hours. Nevertheless I had the impression that these thousands of youngsters were being made aware that there was a country called Canada, and that they were there to see the representative of that country. I believe it will help in their geography lessons, and it will probably keep them conscious of the fact that there is such a country and that that country wants to be their friend, and wants them to be our friends.

The same cordiality was manifested by his Majesty the Emperor and by the Empress. I had been brought up to believe that they were of another species than just ordinary mankind, but there could not have been a more intimate family atmosphere than that provided at this informal luncheon. I say the luncheon was informal, but the preparation were quite formal. I had the Emperor's carriage provided for me. It was the second time it had been used since the war. The first time was for the Vice-President of the United States, though probably it had been used on some other occasions. I understand the carriage is provided for an Ambassador when he goes to present his credentials. But the Imperial carriage and the whole cavalcade was passed through the streets in weather conditions reminiscent of the coronation parade in London last June. But it was a very intimate, human reception we were given by Their Majesties in the palace. Prime Minister Yoshida and members of his cabinet, with whom I chatted, said in so many words that their military men had entered upon a terrible undertaking in 1941 with the expectation of making gains, but that the Japanese people had realized that no gains had been made, and that it was not likely in this age, and with the present methods of warfare, that war could mean any gains for any one in the future. I got the impression that they were sincere in their views and that they did not want or expect to see their country at war again.