

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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No. 50/38 A statement on Korea made on October 3, 1950, by Mr. L.B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and representative of Canada on the First (Political) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly

I do not desire to detain the Committee long or to postpone action on these very important resolutions, because action is desirable. But I think it necessary briefly to explain the attitude of my delegation toward the resolutions, particularly since I represent a country which has subscribed to the United Nations resolutions on Korea and which has attempted to make an effective contribution to the implementation of these resolutions.

It is also difficult to pass by in silence some of the statements and arguments made yesterday by the representative of the U.S.S.R. when he spoke on this subject. If I may say so, his case did not seem to me to be a very impressive one, and it was not made more impressive by its repetition four times during the course of the day by other delegations that associated themselves with it. It was not impressive, of course, because the Soviet Union representative and those who supported him were attempting to make bricks without straw, but with a multitude of press clippings.

In building up the case which they attempted to make, they had, of course, to do their best to discredit the work of a Commission which the United Nations set up some time ago and which had been operating in Korea. They had to discredit the work of that Commission, if they could, because the Report of the Commission, when it is read in its entirety, and not by means of a careful selection of bits which can then be distorted, throws a pretty clear light on what has happened in Korea, and some of the facts reported by that Commission are naturally embarrassing to those who support the U.S.S.R. resolution.

We know, of course, that, in making its report, the Commission was able to move around South Korea and gather evidence -- something which it was not permitted to do, of course, in North Korea, as indeed it would not be permitted to do it in any Communist-controlled country.

What did this Commission report? It reported that the Government of the Republic of Korea, which had been elected there, did not command the one hundred per cent support of the Korean people. That is something that seems to be very astonishing to Mr. Vyshinsky -- but it would not, of course, be astonishing to the representative of any democratic country.

The Commission also reported that there had been steady development and progress in South Korea, even though much remained to be done and, indeed, much could be criticized.