

- II If not (a) should the Commission observe the election of Korean representatives to take part in the consideration of the Korean question as outlined in Resolution I of November 14, 1947, provided that it has determined that elections can be held in a free atmosphere and (b) should the Commission consider such other measures as may be possible and advisable with a view to the attainment of its objectives?

On February 19, Mr. Menon, the Chairman and Indian representative on the Commission, made a full report on the work of the Commission to the Interim Committee. The United States representative stated that the first question put to the Interim Committee should be answered in the affirmative, thereby leaving no need for an answer to the second question. He introduced a resolution to this effect.

The Canadian representative, in presenting the view of the Canadian Government, said that of the two resolutions of the Assembly which governed the powers and duties of the Korean Commission, the second in paragraph 4 indicated that the Commission could not operate in South Korea only. The Commission could not violate its terms of reference and the Interim Committee was not competent to change them. Therefore the Commission was not in a position to carry out its mandate in Korea. Although the Canadian Government strongly supported the objective of a free, united and democratic Korea and felt that the policy of the U.S.S.R. in preventing its realization was to be condemned, it nevertheless thought it unwise to ask the Commission to take further action.

On February 26, the Interim Committee by a vote of 31 in favour to 2 against (Canada and Australia) with eleven abstentions, adopted the United States resolution

The General Officer Commanding United States Army Forces in South Korea announced on March 1 that elections would be held in that zone on May 9, a date which was later changed to May 10. After deliberation, the Commission on March 12 by a vote of 4 to 2 with 2 abstentions decided to observe these elections provided that it was ascertained that they would be held in a free atmosphere wherein democratic rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly would be recognized and respected. Canada and Australia, in conformity with the position they had taken in the Interim Committee, again voted in the negative.

The greater part of the necessary preparatory work relating to the observation of the elections was done by sub-committees and other subsidiary bodies created by the Commission. One sub-committee, on which the Canadian representative served, was charged with devising ways and means to ensure free conditions for the elections and approved a list of recommendations which was subsequently adopted by the Commission and passed to the United States authorities in South Korea. The United States Commanding General, after receiving these recommendations issued on April 5, a "Proclamation on the rights of the Korean People", concerning civil liberties in South Korea.

One of the recommendations of the Commission concerned the pardoning of political prisoners, and on April 8 the United States Commanding General informed the Commission that 3,140 pardons had been issued in ample time for the former prisoners to register as voters or as candidates in the elections.