

danger to the peace and freedom of the world. Finally, the motives of the Peking Government in assisting in the original aggression in Korea were obscure. Before taking any action which might lead to an extension of the hostilities outside Korea, it was therefore the duty of the United Nations to endeavour through all means at its disposal to assure the Peking Government that the legitimate interests of the Chinese Communist Government and people in Korea would not be adversely affected by a defeat of the North Korean aggressors.

A comprehension of these factors which entered into the consideration by the United Nations of the question of Chinese intervention in Korea is essential to an understanding of what the United Nations may do in the future. The United Nations should not be judged as if it were a court to try offenders, with a police force always ready and able to punish those found guilty. The United Nations is not an entity in itself. It is the sum total of the wills of its members and of the combined contributions which they are willing to make. It is not now able to apply overwhelming pressure at all times on all offenders, major or minor. Its members therefore must conserve their limited resources in order to be able to apply them collectively where they are most needed. It is for this reason that those free countries with particular responsibilities for the maintenance of peace have been obliged to supplement the United Nations with special agreements like the North Atlantic Treaty. The United Nations is of enormous importance in the preservation of peace and the maintenance of collective security. But so long as the armed forces which must be used to maintain the security of the Free World are possessed by a relatively few states, the methods by which these forces are used to fulfil the collective security obligations of the United Nations must necessarily be a matter of concern, particularly to those countries on which the burden of defending the Free World rests.

It is important, however, not to underestimate the role played by the United Nations as a whole, as distinct from that of the United States and a few of its allies, in resisting North Korean aggression. However clear the issue in Korea has been to Canadians, we should not forget that it is less clear to the peoples of Asia and other parts of the world. The United Nations has played an important role in clarifying and organizing the defence of collective security. Although the United States would certainly have been justified in intervening on its own to prevent aggression in Korea, without the United Nations it would have been still more difficult than it has been to make clear that the United States was not acting for national or imperialistic purposes. And what is more important than mere appearances is the fact that this has been an international effort in which, through the United Nations, the influence of Asian, European and other countries has been brought to bear on policy.

The United Nations brings together in closer association than would otherwise be possible countries taking active steps to resist aggression and countries prepared to give moral and in some cases diplomatic support. It provides an important forum, and it provides a meeting place where the representatives of almost all states not only can meet but cannot avoid meeting. Most important of all, it provides