

and Canada became a member of it. When, however, that Commission sought to enter into relationship with the Soviet authorities in North Korea, they found the way barred. They were never allowed to visit officially that part of Korea. Under those circumstances it became doubtful whether a Commission of that kind could continue its work with any chance of real success in the southern half of the country alone. I recall that the Canadian Government expressed its doubts on this point at Lake Success. Nevertheless it was decided by a large majority in the United Nations Assembly that the Commission should continue its work in the area in which it was allowed to exercise its functions, and in particular that it should proceed to hold free elections. That was done in the spring of 1948. The government which was elected in Korea as a result of those elections was certainly not a perfect government--no government is, perhaps not even the present government in this house. Nevertheless, the Government of Korea was formed after that election. It was returned as a result of an expression of the will of the vast majority of the Korean people. As such it was entitled to recognition, and that recognition was granted in full measure in the United Nations Assembly on December 12, 1948. It was declared, and we are bound by that declaration, that this government was the lawfully constituted government of the Republic of Korea, and that no other such government was in existence. At the same time the Temporary Commission was transformed into a continuing Commission on Korea. Canada did not stand for reappointment to that Commission when it was reconstituted.

Meanwhile events in the Soviet zone in the north followed the usual pattern with which we have become so familiar. The occupation authorities had been busy setting up a puppet administration, indoctrinating the people with communist propaganda, and training a formidable army. Just how formidable that army was we have only learned in the last few months. We knew about it, of the formation of that army, but we did not know when it was going to strike.

By the end of 1948 Soviet plans in North Korea had been sufficiently advanced for the Soviet forces to be withdrawn and the government handed over to the North Korean administration. The North Korean army contained within its ranks veterans of the war in China. The United States occupation forces withdrew from Korea a few months later, but that was a genuine, not a spurious withdrawal.

It was this regime in South Korea, established under the auspices of the United Nations and recognized by us, which was attacked by North Korean forces on June 25. This attack caught us all by surprise. Mr. Malik, the Soviet representative on the Security Council, assures us that it was North Korea which was attacked. Fortunately it is easy to clear the air of his lies and misrepresentations, since at the time the attack occurred there was sitting in the capital of South Korea, in Seoul, the independent and impartial United Nations Commission to which I have referred. It was composed of representatives from Australia, China, France, India, the Philippines, Turkey, and El Salvador.

After flashing the news of the aggression to the United Nations a few hours after it occurred, the Commission submitted the following day a much longer and more authoritative report which concluded with these categorical sentences: