

GOVERNMENT  
CANADA



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs,  
and President of the United Nations General Assembly,  
Mr. L.B. Pearson, on the Adjournment of the Seventh Session,  
December 22, 1952.

The seventh session of the General Assembly has just adjourned, to be resumed on February 24 next, or earlier at the call of the President. When I was elected to the Presidency on October 14, I was under no illusion that it would be anything but a difficult session, or that our tasks would be easy of accomplishment. I said then that the issues facing us would impose as severe tests on our world organization as any in its history. This has been borne out in our work of the past two months. The agenda has been crowded with problems of great importance and complexity, but the General Assembly in its deliberations, and in its decisions, has neither evaded the crucial issues of our troubled world, nor sought solutions which ignore the hard realities of the international situation. The task which confronted it, then, has been not an excuse for inaction, but a challenge to effort.

The main question before the Assembly has been that of Korea. At the beginning of this Session it was agreed unanimously that the Korean question should be given priority. That was done because it is the first responsibility of the United Nations to do what it can to bring the fighting there to an end on honourable terms. In the Korean discussions, the debate centered around the one remaining obstacle to the achievement of an armistice - the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war.

The Resolution on Korea, which 54 members of the General Assembly approved on December 3, represented an important and constructive move to solve this question. It reflected a full and free exchange of views between members of the United Nations, and was a consensus of these views arrived at after lengthy negotiation and discussion. If it had been accepted, it could have brought the fighting in Korea to an end without delay.

In my capacity as President of the Assembly, and under the terms of the Resolution, I communicated the Assembly's proposals to the Foreign Minister of the Central People's Government at Peking, and to the North Korean authorities. At the same time, as President of the Assembly, I made an appeal to the Chinese and North Korean authorities to accept these proposals as the basis of an armistice which could bring peace.

The Central People's Government and the North Korean authorities have now rejected the United Nations initiative in terms which make it clear that they are not prepared at