

The votes for the procedural motion in the past three years have been as follows:

| <i>Session</i> | | <i>For</i> | <i>Against</i> | <i>Abstained</i> |
|----------------|------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| Eleventh | 1956 | 47 | 24 | 8 |
| Twelfth | 1957 | 48 | 27 | 6 |
| Thirteenth | 1958 | 44 | 28 | 9 |

The majorities in favour of the motion to postpone consideration of the question of Chinese representation have declined steadily in recent years. Whereas these motions were at one time adopted by majorities of two-thirds or more, at the eleventh and twelfth sessions they received only 59 percent and 58 percent of the total vote respectively. At the thirteenth session this proportion fell to 55.5 percent. The twenty-eight countries that opposed the motion of postponement at the thirteenth session were: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian S.S.R., Cambodia, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sudan, Sweden, United Arab Republic, Ukrainian, S.S.R., U.S.S.R., Yemen, Yugoslavia. Of these Iraq and Cambodia voted against the motion for the first time. One negative vote of the United Arab Republic replaced the previous session's two negative votes of Syria and Egypt. South Africa, which was absent at the twelfth session, recorded a vote in favour. The nine countries abstaining were: Austria, Greece, Iceland, Libya, Israel, Laos, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia. Austria, Greece, Iceland and Libya had voted for the motion prior to their abstention at this session.

The issue was discussed at a time when tension in the Straits of Formosa had been heightened by the bombardment of Quemoy which began on August 23. Commenting on the Canadian vote, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that it would not be timely for the General Assembly to consider the question of Chinese representation because the tension which had resulted from the pressing by military means of the dispute over the Chinese off-shore islands would not afford a proper atmosphere for a discussion of the matter. Consequently, the Canadian Delegation supported the procedural motion of postponement (which requires only a simple majority vote) as it has ever since the intervention of Communist Chinese troops in Korea late in 1950.

Korea

In February 1958 the North Korean authorities proposed a Korean settlement based on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea and the subsequent holding of nation-wide elections "under the supervision of a neutral nations organization". Peking endorsed this statement and announced that Chinese forces would leave Korea during the year. In an exchange of correspondence between Peking and the nations, including Canada, which contributed forces to the United Nations Command (UNC) in Korea, the latter expressed their readiness to withdraw their forces from Korea when the conditions for a lasting settlement laid down by the General Assembly had been fulfilled. However, they were unable to obtain from Peking any clarification of the principles which would govern the holding of elections.

At the thirteenth session of the General Assembly, (agenda item 24) the First Committee considered a resolution on the Korean question sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and