

### 3. Korea

The situation in Korea changed very little during 1955. The country remains divided and the prospects for early unification are slight. There exists, however, a *de facto* peace based on the provisions of the Armistice Agreement of July 27, 1953, and although the Communist armed forces in the north were strengthened by the introduction of new weapons in apparent violation of the Armistice Agreement, the Communist side refrained from further direct aggression. In general, both the United Nations and Communist sides demonstrated a willingness to live with the post-armistice situation, which is in fact an armed truce, until such time as progress could be made by political means on the basic question of unification.

The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, which was established under the Armistice Agreement to supervise and observe the carrying out of the provisions of the armistice, continued to operate during the year, although its practical effectiveness declined. The NNSC is still prevented by the tactics of its Communist members, Poland and Czechoslovakia, from investigating alleged violations in North Korea; while in South Korea its operations have been rendered difficult by the hostility of the Republic of Korea Government, which resents the presence in South Korea of the Communist members of the Neutral Nations' Inspection Teams. The Military Armistice Commission approved during the year the withdrawal of two of these NNIT's from North Korea and two from the south, a decision which reflected the frustration of the inspection system envisaged in the Armistice Agreement in spite of the efforts of the Swedish and Swiss members of the NNSC to make it work effectively.

The search for an acceptable formula for the peaceful unification of Korea went on during the year, but with no success. This question was debated at the tenth General Assembly, where it was clear that the Communist bloc powers still insisted on the unworkable provisions for all-Korean elections which they had presented at the Geneva Conference of 1954, and which at that time had been judged completely unacceptable by Canada and the other countries which had contributed forces to the United Nations military action. As a consequence, the debate followed familiar and expected lines, and a resolution sponsored by the United States was adopted by the General Assembly on November 29. *Inter alia*, this resolution noted that the Armistice Agreement would remain in force until it had been expressly superseded by mutually acceptable amendments or by an agreement reached at a general political conference; it reaffirmed the Assembly's intention to continue to seek an early solution to the Korean question in accordance with United Nations objectives; and it urged that continuing efforts be made to achieve these objectives. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to place the Korean item on the provisional agenda of the eleventh General Assembly.

After consultation with other Commonwealth governments and the United States, the bulk of the Canadian armed forces remaining in Korea was withdrawn in April. Only a field ambulance unit and certain integrated personnel now remain in the Korean theatre as part of the Commonwealth contingent.