

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I thought you were suggesting that the United Nations as such, through its officials, had intervened in the conduct of military operations. General MacArthur took his military direction from the unified command who were the United States Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Low: Actually what I had in mind was the unified command and I wanted to be quite sure about it. I may have made a slip in the use of the term United Nations officials in referring to them, but that is what I wanted to get straight.

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: I think it would have been understood in New York at the United Nations, by anybody who read that statement of yours, that United Nations officials meant the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his officials, and they certainly had nothing whatever to do with it.

Mr. Low: I had in mind what you described as the unified command.

Mr. QUELCH: Does the unified command take the part of the military staff committee?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No. The military staff committee is a permanent agency of the United Nations. The unified command was set up to direct only this particular operation.

Mr. QUELCH: Would they take their orders from the military committee?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, they would not.

Mr. QUELCH: Would they take their orders direct from the Security Council?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No. The unified command are bound by United Nations resolutions on Korea, but in their military direction of the campaign they do not take their orders from anybody as long as they are operating, militarily, within the resolutions that we have passed at the United Nations.

Mr. QUELCH: Under the resolution passed in October 1950 the unified command has the right to carry out their military operations anywhere within Korea?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is right; and a good example of the relationship was the decision taken by the General Assembly two or three years ago, to cross the 38th parallel. Before the United Nations forces actually did so, a resolution was passed at Lake Success authorizing them to proceed beyond that parallel and operate in Northern Korea.

Mr. QUELCH: They would not have the power to bomb Manchurian air bases?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: That is a difficult question to answer categorically and I must be very careful about what I say. They would have no power to extend operations beyond Korea, I think, with this exception: if a question, for instance, of hot pursuit should arise, if there were a massive air attack from Manchuria on our forces—the United Nations forces in Korea—and the unified command, or the general in command—not in Washington but in Korea—felt that for the safety of his troops it was necessary to prevent such bombing and to pursue those bombers over the border and attack them—in other words, if it was a question concerning the immediate safety of his troops—I think it would be considered that he had that authority under the existing resolution. But he certainly would not have the authority to take any action which would extend, generally, operations beyond Korea.

Mr. QUELCH: Would that be in the resolution passed in 1950 or some other resolution?

Hon. Mr. PEARSON: No, it would not be that resolution. It would be the United Nations resolutions giving the unified command responsibility for the conduct of military operations in Korea.