

called also for an international commission to supervise the elections. This recognition of the principle of international supervision was welcome, but unfortunately the type of commission then proposed would have been inhibited by so many restrictions that it would have had little real power. Both the old Korean commission and the international elections commission would have been so composed as to ensure that there would be a permanent deadlock, a situation of which we have already had unfortunate experience in Korea, as our distinguished colleague, the representative of Sweden, told us yesterday in reporting on the difficulties of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

The Canadian Delegation at Geneva argued that if elections for the unification of Korea were to be free, they must be supervised by an international agency genuinely neutral and acceptable to the United Nations. This agency might consist of nations which did not belong to the Communist bloc and which did not participate in military operations in Korea. However, the other side were not disposed to accept a supervisory commission which would be truly impartial and capable of taking effective decisions and carrying them out.

When it was made abundantly clear that the other side were not prepared to see a Korea united in freedom, our delegations agreed that no useful purpose would be served by further meetings at Geneva.

My delegation regrets very much that it has been necessary for those member states represented at Geneva to report failure. The differences which existed between the proposals of the North Koreans and the minimum conditions which we consider necessary to protect the democratic rights of Koreans in the process of reunification were so broad that we had no alternative but to admit the failure of the negotiations. Certain concessions were made during the course of the Conference but the conditions on which the North Koreans insisted remained unacceptable. This being the case, the Canadian Delegation at Geneva agreed that it was far better to acknowledge our differences than to mislead the public of the world by merely suspending our discussions or by pretending that there had been agreements in principle. In our view, the Geneva negotiations lasted longer than the North Koreans had any good reason to expect or deserve. The democratic countries represented there showed infinite patience in considering all the proposals put forward by the North Koreans and by the Chinese and Soviet representatives. The Canadian Delegation among others did its utmost to explore all possible methods of conciliation and agreement in accordance with the responsibility we had accepted under the General Assembly resolution of August 28, 1953. As any objective analysis of the record will show, it was not the fault of our side that agreement could not be reached.

We and our associates have carried out our duties under the Assembly resolution. Nevertheless, my delegation does not consider that every effort to