

hardly seems a valid objection to apply to the United States proposal to establish a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, to supervise the freedom of elections in the country, to assist in the organization of a democratic form of government and the withdrawal of the occupying forces. Surely the very purpose of such a commission would be to provide observers to ensure that the Korean people could, in fact, establish their own government by free elections without foreign interference."

Excerpt from CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS 1948, Department of External Affairs, pages 67 - 71

The last act of the third session of the General Assembly before it adjourned on December 12, 1948, was to pass a resolution on Korea by 48 to 6 with one abstention. This resolution approved the conclusions of the Report of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea and declared that the Government of the Republic of Korea had been properly established under the observation of the Commission in that part of Korea where the Commission had been able to function. In addition to a general interest in the establishment of Korean independence, Canada was especially concerned with the Korean question because of its membership on the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea.

Dr. Patterson, the Canadian representative, attended the first meeting of the Commission on January 12 at Seoul, Korea, where the Commission first considered the approach to be made to the Soviet authorities in North Korea to secure their co-operation. The United States authorities had already indicated their readiness to co-operate. Letters in identical form were sent to the General Officers Commanding the forces in North and South Korea and the text of these letters was also sent by telegram to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the request that the permanent Soviet representative to the United Nations be asked to transmit it to Moscow. In a reply of January 23 from the Soviet representative, which was relayed to the Commission, Mr. Gromyko reminded the Commission of the negative attitude taken by the Soviet Government towards the establishment of the Korean Commission. It soon became apparent that no response would be forthcoming directly from the Soviet Commander in North Korea.

On February 6, the Commission declared that the negative attitude of the Soviet Government made it impossible for the Commission to exercise for the time being the functions conferred upon it by the General Assembly in the part of Korea occupied by the Soviet armed forces. The Commission thereupon resolved that it should consult the Interim Committee of the General Assembly and adopted a resolution embodying the following questions on which consultation should take place:

- I Is it open to or incumbent upon the Commission under the terms of the General Assembly Resolutions of November 14, 1947, and in the light of developments on the situation with respect to Korea since that date, to implement the programme as outlined in Resolution II in that part of Korea which is occupied by the armed forces of the United States of America?