

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 54/28 CANADIAN STATEMENT AT GENEVA CONFERENCE

Statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made at Geneva on May 4, 1954, at the conference on Korea and Indo-China.

If I venture to take part in this debate, it is because I do not wish my silence to be interpreted as indicating any weakening or slackening of the strong support that my country has steadily given to United Nations policy on Korea; or as indicating, even by omission, approval of the distortions in some previous speeches on Korean and Asian developments; or indifference to the false charges that have been levelled, particularly at the United States of America, in respect of these developments.

Canada is represented at this Korean Peace Conference because she is a member of the United Nations and, as such, has participated, on land, water and in the air, in United Nations operations against aggression in Korea. Similarly, our responsibilities here derive solely from the decisions taken by the United Nations on the Korean question.

These decisions were concerned with, first, the determination of the fact of aggression in Korea; second, the repulse of this aggression, something that has been accomplished by the United Nations forces under the resolute and unselfish leadership of the United States, and by the heavy and gallant sacrifices of the Korean people themselves; and, third, with the establishment, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a free, united and democratic Korea, rising from the tragedy and devastation of that unhappy land.

Every one of these United Nations decisions was accepted by the vast majority of the members of that organization, including - we should not forget this - many who have often declared their intention of remaining outside what has been called the "cold war", and whose foreign policies could not be remotely considered as aimed against the communist powers.

The Canadian Government has supported and remains bound by these United Nations decisions. Therefore, we cannot support any proposal which denies their validity, or which would equate at this conference the moral and political status of the United Nations in respect of the Korean question, with those governments which have broken the United