

obstacle, in the way of an armistice. We in Canada - in the Canadian Government, and I think in Canada generally - accept the principles embodied in that resolution and we still stand by them. It is true that they were rejected by the Communists almost out of hand, but we feel that those principles are still binding on those of us who accepted them in good faith.

Then you will recall that just a few weeks ago, the Chinese and North Korean Communists, agreed to certain things which they had refused to accept previously. They agreed, you will recall, to exchange sick and wounded prisoners-of-war, something which they should have done years ago under the Geneva Convention about which they talk so much. They also agreed to resume negotiations on the whole question of an armistice, and on this resumption, they submitted new proposals which went much further than any previous Communist proposals to accept the principles laid down in the United Nations resolution. That, in our view, represented a considerable advance on their part to the United Nations' position.

Since that time, two or three weeks ago, we have had long and earnest consultations about these new proposals in Washington with the United States Government and other governments participating in Korea. We all felt, of course, that some clarification of certain points was necessary because, from fairly long and bitter experience, we know now what can be done by Communist proposals when any part of them seems to be left vague and open to different interpretations.

The Canadian Government also felt strongly, that in any reply to the Communists we should not depart in principle from the United Nations resolution. We all agreed in these talks, -- and the United States President announced his view in regard to these matters this morning. We also agreed entirely with the United States' position, which was also our position, that there should be no forcible repatriation in accordance with the principle which we were not willing to abandon and did not abandon at the United Nations last Assembly. We felt also that there should be no indefinite detention of prisoners. We agreed once the composition of the Repatriation Commission was decided, its administrative procedure would have to be pretty carefully worked out. And, finally, and these are the main points of agreement, we agreed that the disposition of those prisoners who would not return to their own homelands should be turned over to some form of political conference for consideration and for decision. Now these ideas on which we have agreed have been embodied in a new proposal submitted to the Communists, I think only last Monday, as a basis on which, if the Communists are acting in good faith, at all, should provide an honourable and acceptable armistice.

The Canadian Government, along with the United Kingdom and other governments participating in the Korean operations, stands firmly behind these proposals as fair, reasonable and in accord with the resolution of the United Nations Assembly supported by 54 of its members. The