



## STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Statements by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, made in the House of Commons, February 5, - 11, and 12, 1953.

...I have had an opportunity ... of studying the text of the statement by the President of the United States .... In that statement, ... the President announced the modification of the Presidential order to the 7th Fleet issued by his predecessor on June 27, 1950. That order which was given, ... shortly after the aggressive attack on South Korea, was in the nature of an instruction to the United States 7th Fleet both to prevent any attack upon Formosa from the mainland, and also to ensure that Formosa should not be used as a base of operations against the Chinese Communist mainland.

The order was issued, of course, before the large-scale intervention by Chinese Communist forces in Korea, and its objective was to neutralize Formosa in order to limit the hostilities arising out of the aggression of June 25, 1950, on the Korean peninsula.

... the original order was an action taken on the sole responsibility of the United States Government, just as the recent action modifying it with respect to what the President has termed the employment of the 7th Fleet to "shield Communist China" was taken on the sole responsibility of the United States Government. That, however, does not make the matter one of little or merely indirect interest to other countries, including Canada.

With respect to the position of the Canadian Government, while we remain resolved to carry out our United Nations obligations in Korea, we do not think that the defence of Formosa, which has not been assumed by the United Nations, should be confused with the defence of Korea, which has. As I have mentioned on several occasions in the House, on May 15, 1951, on May 22, 1951, and on April 1, 1952, our consistent position has been that this island should be neutralized so far as that is possible, while hostilities continue in Korea. Our view has been that the final disposition of Formosa should be a subject to be discussed at a conference on Far Eastern problems which should be held when the fighting ceases in Korea; and we strongly supported the statement of principles approved by the Political Committee of the Fifth United Nations General Assembly which specifically provided for such a conference. In any decision regarding the future of Formosa, the wishes of the people there would naturally be a primary consideration.

In considering the possible effects of this recent action by the United States Government, I should emphasize that on Far Eastern issues, as on other questions in which we are both concerned, the fundamental and long-term aims of Canada and the United States are similar, although naturally we may differ on occasions in our approach to specific issues and as to how these long-term aims can best be achieved.

Canadians of course know President Eisenhower well. They feel a deep gratitude for the services he has already rendered the free world and have full confidence, I am sure, in his peaceful and constructive purposes. And I am convinced that