

Canada was represented on the Additional Measures Committee set up by this resolution but not on the Good Offices Committee.

The Good Offices Committee was not able to make any progress or to secure recognition by the Central People's Government of China. During the debate on Chinese aggression at the beginning of the year the communist forces launched a heavy ground attack which was halted during January. In April and May another heavy communist offensive was launched. This, combined with the failure of the enemy to agree to negotiate with the Good Offices Committee, led the Additional Measures Committee to approve on May 11 a resolution calling for an embargo on shipments of arms and strategic materials to China and North Korea. This resolution was approved by the General Assembly on May 18. It is worth noting that Canada, like many other members of the United Nations, had already put into effect regulations of its own which were similar in purpose to the restrictions called for by the resolution of May 18. For this reason, and because its regulations were, if anything, more severe than those required by the resolution, Canada felt able to vote for the resolution.

On April 11 General Matthew B. Ridgway replaced General Douglas MacArthur as the Commander of the United Nations Command. The dismissal of General MacArthur precipitated a political controversy in the United States which resulted in hearings before a committee of the Senate during which the following exchange took place:

Senator Smith: You think that if we stopped them at the Thirty-eight and pushed them back to where they began, and if we restored peace and security in South Korea, that is all we are expected to do in order to assert the prestige of the United Nations?

Mr. Acheson: That is the military objective of the United Nations, as laid down by the United Nations itself. There is also the political objective of the United Nations, which is creating a free, independent, and democratic Korea, and the United Nations will continue to do that, and I hope it will be able to do that.

Mr. Acheson's remarks were evidently interpreted by the communists as meaning that a negotiated truce along the 38th parallel would be acceptable to the United Nations as the fulfilment of their military obligations in Korea.

On June 23 the Soviet Representative to the United Nations in New York made a radio address at the end of which he suggested that discussions be started "between the belligerents for a cease-fire and an armistice providing for the mutual withdrawal of forces from the 38th parallel". After clarifying Mr. Malik's remarks in Moscow, the United States announced that General Ridgway had been authorized to seek to negotiate a cease-fire with the enemy commander in Korea and, following an exchange of messages between General Ridgway and enemy headquarters, official representatives of the opposing commanders met for the first time on July 10, 1951.