

UNITED NATIONS KOREAN RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY

Statement by the Acting Chairman of the Canadian
Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly,
Mr. Paul Martin, made in the First Committee,
March 9, 1953.

I wish to make briefly a second intervention in this
debate on Korea because I wish to say something about the United
Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency. As you know, there is a
resolution on this subject now before the Committee. The
Canadian Government is a co-sponsor of the resolution tabled the
other day, and, of course, we think that it should be supported.

The Korean Reconstruction Agency was established by
General Assembly Resolution 410A(V) of December 1, 1950, with
power "to plan ... and carry out a broad programme of relief and
reconstruction in Korea". The Canadian Government has given
its whole-hearted support to the Korean Reconstruction Agency
and has done all in its power to enable the Agency to carry out
the purposes for which it was established.

From the outset of the Korean conflict, the Canadian
Government recognized that there were essential aspects to the
problem other than those concerned with the military action
undertaken by the United Nations in defence of the Republic of
Korea. Now ... we, along with other members of the United Nations,
were at once conscious that there would be a progressive need
by co-operative action of giving economic assistance to the
Korean people to repair the ravages of war, an eloquent and
distressing account of which we heard from the Korean spokesman
here last Friday. Who can fail to sympathize deeply with the
Korean people in their sufferings or to be convinced of the
necessity to give all practical aid to prevent their being over-
whelmed by economic destruction.

I venture to state ... that we in Canada have responded
to this need of the Korean people for economic assistance. As
of February 15 of this year it will be seen from one of the
Agent-General's Reports that more than \$205 million had been
pledged to the Agency by various governments. Of this amount,
somewhat less than \$45 million had, as of that date, been paid in.
The Canadian Government, at an early date in the operations of
the Agency, pledged \$7½ million. The full amount of this pledge
was paid to the Agency on March 31, 1951. The amount pledged
by my country is, I believe, the third largest amount pledged
by any government. The amount paid in by Canada is the second
largest amount paid in by any government up to the present time,
and the first pledge to be paid in full.

As further indication of our support of the Agency, I
might perhaps mention that Canada is one of the five members of
the Advisory Committee set up to advise the Agent General under
the 1950 resolution. The other members of that Committee are,
of course, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and
Uruguay.

Let me now refer briefly to the operations of the Agency. During the first year following the establishment of the Agency, a good deal of uncertainty existed about the role which the Agency might play in the absence of an armistice in Korea. It was necessary for agreement to be worked out among the various authorities responsible for both military and civilian activities in that country. During this period of uncertainty the operations of the Agency were inevitably not very extensive. I might add in this particular regard that the functions of the Korean Relief Agency have heretofore been hampered not only by the necessary practical limitations imposed by the conditions of war but also obviously by the refusal of the Communists to recognize its good intentions or to participate in or facilitate its work. Is it too strong (I am sure it is not) to say that they have shown the same obstructive attitude, for example, towards the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, that other body which we - the United Nations - have set up to help the Korean Republic in our name? I feel impelled at this point to say a word of commendation to this Commission, which has worked faithfully and hard in difficult circumstances to carry out its duties both to Korea and to the United Nations.

I feel sure that all those governments which voted in favour of the original resolution will be gratified to learn, from the annex to the Report of the Agent-General, that satisfactory arrangements to enable the Agency to carry out the functions it was created to perform have now been worked out with the responsible authorities. For the first time, operations on a substantial scale should be possible. We trust that this is so.

Now, a welcome development occurred in November of last year. In that month the Advisory Committee approved a \$70 million programme submitted by the Agent-General for the year ending June 30, 1953. This consisted of specific projects which had already been approved by the Unified Command and the Korean Government. This programme, we are pleased to note, included reconstruction and rehabilitation items such as transport, communications, power, housing, health and education. It is most encouraging to learn from the Report of the Agent-General that it has been possible for him to make progress in implementing this \$70 million reconstruction programme.

We express the hope that the Agent-General will continue to keep the Advisory Committee fully informed of developments in carrying out the reconstruction programme and that the Agency will press forward with this programme.

We wish to emphasize that in our view the long-term reconstruction of the war-damaged Korean economy is and should continue to be the main function of the Agency. We fully realize, of course, the importance in emergencies of providing relief to alleviate immediate personal distress in Korea. However, we would hope, that current relief measures would be adequate to meet this problem. I should add that a number of Canadian voluntary bodies have joined with other national and international organizations and agencies in providing supplies to cope with emergency situations.

I make this assertion because it is our view that in the end capital reconstruction constitutes the only solution to the great economic problems which are faced in Korea both by the Government of Korea and by the United Nations. For this reason, my delegation wishes to place on record its hope that the Agency will remain primarily concerned with reconstruction rather than

with civilian relief. My Government would not be disposed to approve any tendency to transform that Agency from its main purpose of reconstruction into a relief agency.

The Government of Canada is glad to join with the Governments of Denmark, France the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States in sponsoring the resolution now before this Committee. This resolution, it seems to us, is phrased in simple and non-controversial terms. Among other things it re-affirms the objective of the United Nations set out in the resolution of the General Assembly of December 1, 1950, of providing relief and rehabilitation to assist the people of Korea. It recognizes that the need of such relief and rehabilitation continues to be most urgent. It notes with approval that the Agent-General has now undertaken, in co-operation with the responsible authorities, a programme of relief and rehabilitation approved by the Advisory Committee. It expresses its appreciation of the contributions which have been made by governments, Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations. It requests governments which have made pledges to the Agency to make prompt payment of their pledges and, lastly, it requests all governments, Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist in meeting the great and continuing need of the Korean people for relief and rehabilitation assistance. I express the earnest hope that the resolution will receive the widest possible support from delegations at this table.

But it is not enough to vote in favour of this resolution. The Agency must continue to receive from governments the financial support necessary to enable it to carry out approved reconstruction programmes. I therefore with great respect urge those governments which already have made pledges to pay in the amount of their pledges and those governments which have not made pledges to offer some contribution to the Agency. I am instructed to say that until this has been done, governments which have paid the amount of their pledges in full would probably not be disposed to consider making additional contributions.

I believe it desirable to emphasize this matter. As I have said, the Canadian Government considers the work of the Korean Relief Agency to be of vital importance. This work cannot go on unless governments contribute funds to allow it to do so. We say, and I hope we say it modestly, that we have made our contribution promptly and in full.

I am sure we are all in agreement that everything possible should be done to remedy the disasters which have befallen the people of Korea.



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I am sure we are all in agreement that everything possible should be done to remedy the disaster which have befallen the people of Korea. It is important that we should be fully co-operated in our efforts to relieve the suffering of the people of Korea. We must not only provide relief but also help to reconstruct the country. We must not only provide relief but also help to reconstruct the country. We must not only provide relief but also help to reconstruct the country.

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