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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION
AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA (UNCURK): ITEM 32

Text of Statement to be delivered in the First Committee by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. Paul Tremblay, on December 20, 1965.

Mr. Chairman, Canada firmly believes that the United Nations should be the agency through which international disputes are settled and world peace maintained. Consequently, my country has played an active role in the search for a solution to the Korean question which has been undertaken by this organization over the years. In 1948 Canada was one of the eight nations represented on the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea which was set up to organize national elections throughout the peninsula. Unfortunately, free and United Nations supervised elections could not be held in the North.

Canada was also one of the 16 nations which 15 years ago sent troops under United Nations auspices to help the Republic of Korea repel an attempt from the North to unify the peninsula by force. Canada later took part in the Geneva Conference of 1954 which tried and failed to find a diplomatic solution to the problem of Korean unification.

Thus, Mr. Chairman, Canada is fully aware that this issue is a complicated and a long-standing one. Many proposals have been put forward for its solution. Considering that the desire of the Korean people for peace, unity and freedom must be paramount, my Government has of course studied all such proposals carefully.

Canada is convinced, however, that there is only one just method of achieving the reunification of Korea. That is by ascertaining the freely expressed opinion of all its people through a nation-wide election under effective international supervision. The establishment, by peaceful means, of a unified and independent



Korea under a representative form of government is the primary purpose of UNCURK whose most recent reports are now before us. Canada continues to hope that UNCURK, after so much delay and frustration of its efforts, may be given the opportunity of carrying out its mandate. It is with this goal in view that my Delegation has willingly joined in co-sponsoring the twelve-power resolution in document A/C.1/L.355.

The United Nations, Mr. Chairman, does have the authority and the responsibility to bring about by peaceful means the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the Korean area. In the view of my delegation, the United Nations in meeting this responsibility would be completing an important piece of unfinished business and would be responding to the hopes of the Korean people for peace, unity and freedom.

