

External Affairs
Supplementary Paper

No. 54/48/UN 9/25

**REPORT OF THE AGENT GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS KOREAN
RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY**

Text of statement on December 10, 1954, by
Senator Charles B. Howard, Canadian Representative
in the Second Committee at the ninth session of
the United Nations General Assembly, New York,
on agenda item 17(b) - Report of the United Nations
Agent General for Korean Reconstruction

Note: The text of the resolution adopted by the
Committee and the results of the voting
are included at the end of the statement.

The report of the Agent General of the Korean
Reconstruction Agency has given a clear and impressive
picture of the substantial progress made by the Agency
in its work of rehabilitation in war-torn South Korea
during the period covered by the report. Canada has been
a member of the UNKRA Advisory Committee since its
establishment by the General Assembly in December 1950. The
Canadian Delegation has consequently had a direct and
continuing interest in, and knowledge of, the development
by the Agency of an over-all programme from which the
Korean people would derive the maximum degree of benefit.

Until July 1953, the scope of UNKRA's work was
necessarily limited by the military situation. As the
Agent General has indicated, the period covered by his
report is therefore the first one which has been free of
hostilities, and the first in which UNKRA has been able
to undertake comprehensive reconstruction and rehabilitation
projects. The report shows graphically what really sub-
stantial progress has been made. We realize the tremendous
task facing the Republic of Korea in transforming its
economy from one devastated by war to one which will ensure
that the Korean people are enabled, once again, to enjoy a
reasonable standard of living. We believe that the UNKRA
projects now under way will contribute towards this
objective.

It is not my intention to dwell on the details of
the Agent General's programme. These have been clearly
set out in the report. I would at this time simply wish to
commend General Coulter, under whose able direction the
Agency, in spite of great difficulties, has been able to
achieve much. My delegation is particularly impressed by
the fact that the Agent General has been able to make
substantial reductions in staff without impairing the
effectiveness of his programme.

A few days ago in the First Committee, and again
today in this Committee, the Representatives of the Soviet
Union have suggested unjustly that little has been done
in Korea by UNKRA and through other programmes of economic
assistance. In view of their statements, I think I must
point out that the report of the Agent General shows that

from the time of the outbreak of hostilities, economic assistance to the Republic of Korea by member states of the United Nations and by non-members has been the equivalent of over \$472 million; this is in addition to the contributions to UNKRA of \$123 million. Furthermore, as indicated in paragraph 157 of the Agent General's report, voluntary non-governmental agencies have made shipments to South Korea valued at \$17 million. On a bilateral basis, the United States provided for the period July 1, 1953, to July 1, 1954, economic assistance totalling over \$265 million and, as announced recently in Washington, has made available for obligation for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1955, an additional amount of \$280 million. All this adds up to considerably more than \$1 billion in economic assistance to Korea, the expenditure of which has made and is making a very important contribution to the relief of the Korean people and the rebuilding of the Korean economy.

We believe with General Coulter that it is most important that UNKRA's programme be implemented to the fullest possible extent. My delegation would, therefore, like to associate itself with those which have called, not only for additional contributions to the Agency, but also for the prompt payment of existing pledges. As the Committee is doubtless aware, the Canadian Government in 1951 pledged towards UNKRA's programme the sum of \$7,250,000 (Canadian), a pledge which has been honoured in full. Because of its assessment of the continuing value of this programme, and in support of the appeal made by the Agent General today, my Government is prepared to recommend that the Canadian Parliament approve a new contribution to UNKRA, over and above that which has already been contributed by Canada.

We would hope that the resolution now before us - a resolution which Canada was pleased to co-sponsor - will be adopted unanimously.

Voting Results

Following is the text of a resolution (U.N.Doc. A/RESOLUTION/257) adopted by the Second Committee on December 11 by a vote of 38 in favour (including Canada) to 5 against, with no abstentions, and adopted in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on December 14 by a vote of 41 in favour (including Canada) to 5 against, with 2 abstentions:

Text of Resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 410 (V) of 1 December 1950, 701 (VII) of 11 March 1953 and 725 (VIII) of 7 December 1953,

A few days ago in the First Committee, and again today in this Committee, the Representatives of the Soviet Union have suggested unjustly that little has been done in Korea by UNKRA and through other programmes of economic assistance. In view of their statements, I think I must point out that the report of the Agent General shows that

Taking note of the report^{1/} of the Agent General on the work of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for the period 1 October 1953 to 1 September 1954, and of the comments (A/2810) thereon by the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea,

Recognizing the particular importance of the continuation of the Agency's programme for the relief and rehabilitation of the Republic of Korea and the urgent need of additional contributions from governments to enable the Agency to continue the implementation of that programme,

1. Commends the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for the excellent progress made by the Agency in pursuing its mission of assisting the Korean people to relieve the sufferings and to repair the devastation caused by aggression;

2. Stresses the desire that implementation of the programmes of the Agency as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 725 (VIII) of 7 December 1953 be achieved to the maximum extent possible;

3. Urges all Governments to give the financial support necessary for the continuation of the Agency's programme, whether by the prompt payment of existing pledges or by the pledging of new contributions to the programme;

4. Expresses appreciation for the valuable and continuing assistance given to the Agency by United Nations specialized agencies and by voluntary non-governmental organizations;

5. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to General Assembly resolution _____ (IX) of 29 October 1954^{2/}, to undertake steps designed to secure new pledges and the prompt payment of existing pledges to the Agency.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, ninth session, Supplement No. 20, document A/2750.

^{2/} See A/RESOLUTION/205.



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2. Expresses the desire that implementation of the programmes of the Agency as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 725 (VIII) of 7 December 1953 be achieved to the maximum extent possible;

3. Urges all Governments to give the financial support necessary for the continuation of the Agency's programme, whether by the prompt payment of existing pledges or by the pledging of new contributions to the programme;

4. Expresses appreciation for the valuable and continuing assistance given to the Agency by United Nations specialized agencies and by voluntary non-governmental organizations;

5. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to General Assembly resolution (IX) of 29 October 1952, to undertake steps designed to secure new pledges and the prompt payment of existing pledges to the Agency.

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2/ See A/RESOLUTION/205.