

No. 53/62 UNITED NATIONS KOREAN RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY

Text of a statement given on December 2, 1953, by the Canadian Permanent Representative, Mr. David M. Johnson, in the Second Committee of the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, on agenda item 18 - Report of the United Nations Agent-General for Korean Reconstruction.

Note: Voting results and the resolution adopted are given at the end of the statement.

The statement which has just been made to us by the Agent-General for Korean reconstruction has been a clear and forceful account of the achievements of the agency up to the present time, of the difficulties which it has faced thus far, and of the problems which lie before it. I am sure that I shall speak on behalf of the Committee when I express our thanks to General Coulter for having returned from Korea in order to lay his report before us and for having given us this valuable outline of the position in which the agency now stands.

As Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Agent-General, I am especially pleased to introduce to this Committee the resolution contained in Document A/C.2/L218, which my delegation has co-sponsored with the delegations of Argentina, France, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States and by which the General Assembly would approve subject to consultation between the Agent-General and the Advisory Committee, the programmes for 1953-54 and 1954-55 set out in the report of the Agent-General (Document A/2543). It is the hope of the sponsors of this resolution that it will receive unanimous support and that this session of the General Assembly will thereby reaffirm the intention of the United Nations, as stated in Resolution 410 (V) of December 1, 1950, and as again set forth by the President of the Seventh Session of the General Assembly, upon the conclusion of the Korean armistice on July 26, 1953, "to assist the Korean people, to relieve their sufferings, and to repair the devastation in their country".

The details of the present financial situation of the agency are clearly set out in the report and have been amplified by the Agent-General himself in his statement. It is not my intention, therefore, to dwell on them at length, since they speak for themselves. The Canadian Government, as the Committee is probably aware, pledged toward the original target of \$250 million established by the Negotiating Committee in 1950 \$7,250,000 Canadian, a pledge which has been honoured in full. I should perhaps add here, parenthetically, that the Canadian Delegation will not be in a position to indicate Canada's probable response to any extended programme until the Canadian Government has considered the extent to which it is prepared to assume new financial commitments to meet UNKRA requirements beyond the original

\$250 million programme. As regards that programme, it is our hope that with further exploration of the modalities of payment it may be found possible to utilize completely pledges so far made, both to the agency and under the Security Council resolutions regarding the emergency programme. We should further hope that governments and agencies which have not yet done so would explore the possibility of offering all the aid within their abilities in order to meet the requirements for funds outlined by the Agent-General in his report.

Note: Voting results and the resolution adopted are operative paragraph 3 of the resolution fully sets out these considerations and makes the appropriate recommendations.

In the uncertainties which beset us today, it would be inadvisable, as the Agent-General has noted in his report (paragraph 6 page 2), to attempt detailed plans running far into the future. On the other hand, the sponsors of this resolution believe that the full implementation of the original programme of the United Nations for Korean rehabilitation, which for one reason or another -- none of them a reflection upon the agency itself -- has up to now been delayed, should certainly be carried through. It is as a means of doing this that we would propose to the Committee the adoption of the resolution contained in Document A/C.2/L.218.

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Voting Results

Canada shared with five other countries in co-sponsoring a six-power resolution (Doc. A/C.2/L.219) urging governments to complete payment of pledges and to make contributions within their financial possibilities. The resolution was approved in the Second Committee on December 2, 1953 by a vote of 33 in favour (including Canada), none against and 5 abstentions (Soviet bloc). When the resolution came up in plenary session on December 7, it was approved without change by a vote of 52 in favour, none against and 5 abstentions.

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Text of Resolution

(Doc. A/2603)

Eighth session
Agenda item 18 (b)

The General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 410 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Taking note of the report of the Agent General on the work of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for the period 15 September 1952 to 30 September 1953,

Noting that the work undertaken by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency is bringing substantial benefits to the distressed people of Korea,

Noting with satisfaction that the programmes of the Agency are implemented in close cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Command and in consultation with the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea,

1. Commends the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency for his work;
2. Approves, subject to consultation between the Agent General and the Advisory Committee, the programmes for the periods 1 July 1953 to 1 July 1954 and 1 July 1954 to 1 July 1955 set forth in paragraphs 122, 123, and 124 of the Agent General's report to the General Assembly at its eighth session;
3. Notes with concern that sufficient funds are not available to implement such programmes, urges all governments to give immediate consideration to the prompt payment of pledges already made or to the making of contributions within their financial possibilities if they have not already taken such action; and recommends that specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations furnish all possible assistance to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency;
4. Requests the Negotiating Committee for Extra-Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to the General Assembly resolution of 5 October 1953,^{2/} to undertake, in addition to already assigned tasks, negotiations with governments regarding their pledges to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency.

^{2/} Document A/RESOLUTION/108.

The General Assembly

1 December 1950
Resolving General Assembly resolution 410 (V) of

1953.
Agency for the period 15 September 1952 to 30 September
on the work of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction
Taking note of the report of the Agent General

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Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency is bringing substan-
tial benefits to the distressed people of Korea,

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tions furnish all possible assistance to the United Nations
Korean Reconstruction Agency;

4. Requests the Negotiating Committee for
Extra-Budgetary Funds, appointed pursuant to the General
Assembly resolution of 5 October 1953, to undertake, in
addition to already assigned tasks, negotiations with
governments regarding their pledges to the United Nations
Korean Reconstruction Agency.