

Armed Forces of the United Nations that had fought in Korea and recalled that a brigade of Canadian soldiers, as well as three destroyers of the Royal Canadian Navy and elements of the Royal Canadian Air Force, had been in operation since early in the fighting. He described Canada's attitude to the Korean situation as follows:—

“When in the summer of 1950 the United Nations intervened in Korea, it did so for the sole purpose of resisting aggression against the Republic of Korea. This objective has now been achieved. An armistice drawn up in honourable terms has now been signed. It is the earnest hope of the Canadian Government that this armistice in Korea will be observed scrupulously by all concerned and will lead to a political settlement in that ravaged peninsula and eventually to a general settlement of outstanding issues in the whole of the Far East.”

The Hon. L. B. Pearson, President of the seventh session of the General Assembly, announced the convening of the General Assembly to prepare for the calling of the political conference recommended in the armistice terms. This political conference was to deal with “the withdrawal of foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc.” The armistice agreement established a military demarcation line separating the two sides, and it called for the creation of a Military Armistice Commission to supervise the implementation of the agreement and of a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to supervise the movement of men and goods on both sides and to investigate violations.

When the Assembly met in August 1953, much of its time was devoted to a resolution sponsored by Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, recommending the participation of India in the political conference. This resolution did not have sufficient support to pass at the plenary meeting stage and, at the request of India, was withdrawn. A principal resolution passed reaffirmed that “the objectives of the United Nations remained the achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area”.

To arrange a political conference, the United States sent a number of messages to the Peking and North Korean régimes. In late October, discussions on the proposed political conference began at Panmunjom. These discussions, involving the time, place and composition of the proposed conference as well as the status of Soviet participation, were broken off on Dec. 12 over accusations made by the Communist side against the United States.

The prisoners held by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission were released to the United Nations Command just prior to Jan. 23, 1954, and, on that date, they were declared to be free men. India proposed that the General Assembly be reconvened to consider the Korean question but there were not sufficient member states in favour for the proposal to obtain the requisite majority. Canada notified the Secretary-General and the Indian Government that it thought reconvening of the General Assembly in the existing circumstances was inadvisable.

The next major development in the Korean question came at the conclusion of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union at Berlin, Germany, in mid-February. In a communique they announced that agreement had been reached on a conference opening