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GENERAL

S/1538
30 June 1950

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LETTER DATED 30 JUNE 1950 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME
MINISTER OF CANADA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON
30 JUNE 1950

With reference to the resolution concerning the complaint of aggression upon the Republic of Korea adopted at the 474th meeting of the Security Council on 27 June 1950, I have the honour to enclose the text of a statement made by the Prime Minister of Canada in the House of Commons at Ottawa this morning. In particular I should like to draw your attention to the passage in this statement referring to the type of assistance which Canada might be able to make available.

(Signed) John W. Holmes
Acting Permanent Representative of
Canada to the United Nations

/STATEMENT
S/1538

STATEMENT MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 30 JUNE 1950 BY THE
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a further brief report to the House with regard to our relationship to the present situation in Korea. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) said yesterday, our responsibility in this matter arises entirely from our membership in the United Nations and from our support of the resolution of the Security Council passed on Tuesday last, part of which reads as follows:

The Security Council recommends that the Members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area.

Any participation by Canada in carrying out the foregoing resolution -- and I wish to emphasize this strongly -- would not be participation in war against any State. It would be our part in collective police action under the control and authority of the United Nations for the purpose of restoring peace to an area where an aggression has occurred, as determined under the Charter of the United Nations by the Security Council, which decision has been accepted by us. It is only in such circumstances that this country would be involved in action of this kind, and the House I think has already approved this position. I would add, however, that if we are informed that a Canadian contribution to aid United Nations operations under a United Nations commander would be important to achieve the ends of peace, which is of course our only purpose, then the Government wishes Parliament to know that it would immediately consider making such a contribution. It might, for instance, take the form of destroyers to operate with other naval units of the United Nations, though our destroyers could not in any event reach Korean waters in less than about three weeks' time, because after all it is more than six thousand miles from Esquimalt. The Honourable Members will recall that our naval units there were to proceed to European waters for summer exercises. These arrangements will be suspended and the move will now be made into Western Pacific waters where the ships would be closer to the area where they might be of assistance to the United Nations and Korea if such assistance were required. If the situation in Korea or elsewhere, after prorogation, should deteriorate and action by Canada beyond that which I have indicated should be considered, Parliament will immediately be summoned together to give the new situation consideration.

/Meanwhile,

Meanwhile, the Government, within the mandate which the attitude of the House in the last two days has given it, will do its full duty, within the measure of its power and ability, as a Member of the United Nations, in common with other Members, to make the collective action of the United Nations effective, and to restore peace in Korea. If this can be done -- and it can -- then the chances of preserving and strengthening peace over far wider areas of the world than Korea will be immensely increased.
