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American Delegation
U.S.-USSR JOINT COMMISSION
LPO 235

19 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HODGE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Patterson, 19 March.

Mr. Patterson said that it had caused him considerable embarrassment among the Americans here to take the stand he did in UNTCOK. He had no choice in the matter but simply carried out orders. However, he was in sympathy with those orders and thought that the Canadian position itself had been badly misunderstood by the Americans as well as by the members of UNTCOK. He wanted to clear up the Canadian viewpoint.

Mr. Patterson said that Mr. Pearson at Lake Success had more than legal grounds on which to stand. However, he thought his legal grounds were sufficient to win the argument and so had not advanced other arguments. Mr. Pearson's legal stand was that the United Nations Interim Committee had no right to change a directive from the General Assembly. Such directive he contended, had been changed because the General Assembly had never intended that elections be held only in South Korea. Therefore, it was the Canadian position that the matter should be returned to the General Assembly for revision. Mr. Pearson, according to Mr. Patterson, was sure that the General Assembly would not make such revisions.

Mr. Patterson said that was the legal basis, but the basis in spirit was that elections, in the Canadian viewpoint, would contribute to the jellification of the existing division of Korea. What Canada wanted was a unified Korea. This step of elections was getting further away rather than closer to such unification.

Mr. Patterson, as he mentioned in his speech in closed session, contends that the U.S. can handle this problem better than the UN and that it is not a UN problem. UN's desire was to bring Russia

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and the U.S. together on the problem. Since the present directive does not do that then it violates the spirit and the intention of the UN directive.

Mr. Patterson said that frankly "Canada is scared. It can see that if the U.S. continues its aggressive policy a war will come which will destroy civilization." Canada, according to Mr. Patterson will be the battle ground over which conflict will be waged by the U.S. and USSR. Hence, Canadian policy is to do all in its power to keep peace between the U.S. and USSR.

/s/ John Weckerling
JOHN WECKERLING
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

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