

United Nations Assembly Adjourns After Rejecting Red Murder Charge

By FRANCIS W. CARPENTER

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—A weary United Nations Assembly early today turned down a bitter Russian demand for condemnation of the United States for the alleged mass murder of Red prisoners on Pongam Island in Korea.

Immediately after—at 4:45 a.m.—the Assembly adjourned until Feb. 24 after the inauguration of U. S. President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Red-eyes called a tense all-night debate, Assembly delegates voted 45 "nays" to 5 Soviet bloc "yeas" against the Russian proposal. Ten members of the Arab-Asian bloc abstained. The other three in that group—Iraq, Lebanon and Thailand—voted against the Soviet move.

The Soviet bloc gained no support outside of its own tight little group for the resolution, which was denounced by U. S. Delegate Ernest A. Gross as a "sickening" and "shabby midnight propaganda stunt."

Gross, replying to charges launched at midnight Saturday by Soviet Delegate Andrei A. Gromyko said the riot on De. 14 in which 20 persons were killed was engineered to help the Kremlin cover up the fact that "the aggressors and their sponsors have rejected peace in Korea." He said the guards fired at the rioting Reds to quell them and to avoid greater casualties.

Gross referred to the blunt rejection by the Communists of the Indian peace plan approved by the General Assembly Dec. 3 by a vote of 54 to 3 (Soviet bloc) with Nationalist China abstaining.

"The Soviet government," Gross said, "may recognize the mistake it made in so brutally rejecting the Indian resolution for peace in Korea and in so contemptuously flouting the will of the United Nations. . . .

"There is a lesson to be drawn from this midnight maneuver by the Soviet government. It is proof that when members of the United Nations unite on a moral issue and rally from all corners of the earth around the cause of peace and defense of the Charter—the enemies of peace are driven into corners of desperation. We do not believe that our unity can be broken or undermined by acts of lying desperation such as those we have witnessed here."

Weslyn Lloyd, British minister of state; Henri Hoppenot, France; Selim Barper, Turkey; Alexis Kyrou, Greece; David Johnson, Canada; and Leslie K. Munro, New Zealand—whose countries have troops fighting in Korea—assured Gross they were standing with him in indignation; repudiation of the Soviet tactics and allegations, Lloyd said it "is a matter of bitter regret on the eve of Christmas to have this poisonous propaganda injected here." He expressed confidence in the U.N. Command in Korea.

Gromyko, looking natty in a blue suit, also linked the riots with the U.N. adoption of the Indian Korean plan. He said the U. S. wanted to perpetuate the Korean War and the Indian resolution was part of that scheme.

Gromyko said the International Red Cross report on last spring's prison outbreak at Koje Island criticized the U. S. for using weapons against rioting prisoners. He said use of force against the prisoners was part of an American scheme to coerce prisoners into saying they did not want to go home. Those who refused, he added, were brutalized.

Gromyko charged that in May, 1951, the U. S. shipped 1,400 Chinese and North Korean prisoners to the U. S. to serve as "guinea pigs" in atom experiments. That on May 19, 1951, American biologists gazed out the eyes of 18 prisoners, and that on May 30, 1952, the U. S. burned 800 prisoners alive in flame-thrower experiments.

Lloyd burst out laughing at these claims and Jessup and Gross joined him.

Looking at the British, Gromyko said: "They are laughing louder than the American delegation. I wonder why."

Hoppenot, answering for the West, said the guinea pig charge was "odious."

Lloyd, in his turn on the rostrum, referred to a statement by Mrs.

Gertrude Sekaninova, the Czech delegate, that the U.N. Command destroyed the "modest effects" the prisoners kept in their huts.

The British minister reminded the Assembly that he had visited the camps himself and had noticed that among the "modest effects" were such things as sharp spears, guns with knives and other weapons.

The debate alternated among Soviet satellites and members of the Western or neutral camps until the speakers were talked out, utterly weary.

The Assembly first convened Oct. 14, a month later than usual, in order to avoid as much as possible the U. S. elections. But actually it never recovered from the impact of those elections and the Republican victory. The U. S. delegation picked by President Truman became a "lame duck" group unable to maintain its old-time influence in U.N. halls.

As everyone waited for Eisenhower's inauguration, some of the tough political problems were put off to a second part of the Assembly. The leftovers included collective measures against aggression, disarmament, Czechoslovak charges that the U. S. interferes in the affairs of other countries by its Mutual Security Act, a U. S. demand for an impartial investigation of Communist charges that the Americans waged bacterial

warfare in Korea and a Polish package proposal for peace and good will through the world—on the Kremlin model.

One of the notable features of this Assembly was the violence of Russia's "hate America" campaign. It was a constant theme song for a tired and old Andrei Y. Vishinsky, the Soviet foreign minister. It was reflected in the closing stages by the Soviet blasts at alleged American cruelties in putting down disorders at the Pongam camp.

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