PART 1

POLITICS BY OTHER MEANS

Strategic aims and responses
Squadron Leader Ronald Rankin (second left) and Major Stuart Peach (right) travelled to the 38th parallel in June 1950. Their report assisted the United Nations Security Council's decision to aid the Republic of Korea.

Source: AWM P00716.051.
General Douglas MacArthur was the driving force behind the initial UN response to North Korea. His decision to invade North Korea would have fateful consequences for the outcome of the war.
Source: AWM P00716.077.

China's entry into the Korean War caught the United Nations Command by surprise and forced the UN and South Korean troops to withdraw from near the Chinese border back beyond Seoul.
Source: AWM P02758.003.
The Republic of Korea Army recovered quickly from its mauling by North Korea and became a battle-hardened and effective force.

Source: AWM HOBJ1545.

ANZUS saw Australia, New Zealand and the United States form a defence pact for the Pacific region. For Australia, the treaty offered some protection against any future Chinese or Soviet aggression.

Source: AWM P00474.019.
Australian soldiers were initially not equipped to deal with the onset of the Korean winter. The deficit was made up from US and British stores. Private Ian ‘Robbie’ Robertson, a member of 3RAR’s sniper section, wears a mixture of British and US winter kit, c. November 1950.

Source: AWM P03732.001.
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