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THE KOREAN QUESTION: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Mohieddine FEKINI (Libya)

1. On 7 October 1950, the General Assembly adopted resolution 376 (V) on the problem of the independence of Korea, and established the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK).
2. On 11 August 1959, in accordance with its terms of reference, UNCURK submitted a report^{1/} covering the period from 31 July 1958 to 11 August 1959.
3. The General Assembly, at its 803rd plenary meeting on 22 September 1959, included in the agenda of the fourteenth session the item entitled "The Korean question: report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea", and referred it to the First Committee.
4. By a cablegram dated 26 October 1959 (A/C.1/822), the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea requested the participation of its representative in the discussion of the Korean question at the fourteenth session.
5. The First Committee also had before it a letter dated 15 October 1959 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General (A/C.1/823).
6. The First Committee considered the item at its 1061st to 1066th meetings from 23 to 27 November 1959.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 13
(A/4187/Corr.1).

7. At the 1061st meeting, the Committee had before it two draft resolutions: (1) a draft resolution submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.1/L.243), which provided that the Committee, recognizing that, in the absence of representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the Republic of Korea, discussion of the Korean question could not be productive, should decide to invite representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to participate, without the right to vote, in the discussion of the Korean question; (2) a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America (A/C.1/L.244), which provided that the Committee should decide to invite a representative of the Republic of Korea to participate, without the right to vote, in the discussion of the Korean question.

8. At the same meeting, a motion by the United States of America for priority of its draft resolution was adopted by 38 votes to 18, with 15 abstentions. The United States draft resolution (A/C.1/L.244) was adopted by 49 votes to 10, with 15 abstentions, while the USSR draft resolution (A/C.1/L.243) was rejected by 40 votes to 22, with 11 abstentions.

9. On 24 November 1959, Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.245). The preamble provided that the General Assembly should: (1) reaffirm its resolutions 112 (II), 195 (III), 293 (IV), 376 (V), 811 (IX), 910 A (X), 1010 (XI), 1180 (XII) and 1264 (XIII); (2) note that, despite the exchange of correspondence between the communist authorities concerned and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the Governments of countries which contributed forces to the United Nations Command in Korea, in which those Governments expressed their sincere desire to see a lasting settlement of the Korean question in accordance with United Nations resolutions and their willingness to explore any measures designed to bring about reunification on this basis, the communist authorities continued to refuse to co-operate with the United Nations in bringing about the peaceful and democratic resolution of the Korean problem; (3) regret that the communist authorities continued to deny the competence and authority of the United Nations to deal with the Korean question, claiming that any resolution

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on this question adopted by the United Nations was null and void; and (4) note further that the United Nations forces, which were sent to Korea in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations, had in greater part already been withdrawn and that the Governments concerned were prepared to withdraw their remaining forces from Korea when the conditions for a lasting settlement laid down by the General Assembly had been fulfilled. The operative part provided that the Assembly should: (1) reaffirm that the objectives of the United Nations in Korea were to bring about by peaceful means establishment 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; (2) call upon the communist authorities concerned to accept those established United Nations objectives in order to achieve a settlement in Korea based on the fundamental principles for unification set forth by the nations participating on behalf of the United Nations in the Korean Political Conference held at Geneva in 1954, and reaffirmed by the Assembly, and to agree at an early date on the holding of genuinely free elections in accordance with the principles endorsed by the Assembly; (3) request the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea to continue its work in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly; and (4) request the Secretary-General to place the Korean question on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session.

10. At its 1066th meeting on 27 November 1959, the First Committee adopted the fourteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.245) by a roll-call vote of 49 to 9, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

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Recommendation of the First Committee

11. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Korean question

The General Assembly,

Having received the report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea,^{2/}

Reaffirming its resolutions 112 (II) of 14 November 1947, 195 (III) of 12 December 1948, 293 (IV) of 21 October 1949, 376 (V) of 7 October 1950, 811 (IX) of 11 December 1954, 910 A (X) of 29 November 1955, 1010 (XI) of 11 January 1957, 1180 (XII) of 29 November 1957 and 1264 (XIII) of 14 November 1958,

Noting that, despite the exchange of correspondence between the communist authorities concerned and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the Governments of countries which have contributed forces to the United Nations Command in Korea, in which these Governments expressed their sincere desire to see a lasting settlement of the Korean question in accordance with United Nations resolutions and their willingness to explore any measures designed to bring about reunification on this basis, the communist authorities continue to refuse to co-operate with the United Nations in bringing about the peaceful and democratic resolution of the Korean problem,

Regretting that the communist authorities continue to deny the competence and authority of the United Nations to deal with the Korean question, claiming that any resolution on this question adopted by the United Nations is null and void,

Noting further that the United Nations forces which were sent to Korea in accordance with resolutions of the United Nations have in greater part already been withdrawn, and that the Governments concerned are prepared to withdraw their remaining forces from Korea when the conditions for a lasting settlement laid down by the General Assembly have been fulfilled,

1. Reaffirms that the objectives of the United Nations in Korea are to bring about by peaceful means the establishment 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;

^{2/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fourteenth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/4187/Corr.1).

2. Calls upon the communist authorities concerned to accept these established United Nations objectives in order to achieve a settlement in Korea based on the fundamental principles for unification set forth by the nations participating on behalf of the United Nations in the Korean Political Conference held at Geneva in 1954, and reaffirmed by the General Assembly, and to agree at an early date on the holding of genuinely free elections in accordance with the principles endorsed by the Assembly;

3. Requests the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea to continue its work in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to place the Korean question on the provisional agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.
