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## THE KOREAN QUESTION\*

Letter dated 26 August 1966 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from Mr. Pak Sung Chul, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and a memorandum by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 21 July 1966, on the question of the unification of Korea.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for these items to be circulated as official United Nations documents.

(Signed) N. FEDORENKO

\* Item 31 of the provisional agenda.

Pyongyang, 22 July 1966

I have the honour to transmit to you and, through you, to the delegates of all the States Members of the United Nations, the memorandum of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, dated 21 July 1966, elucidating its position on the question of Korea's unification.

Convinced that you will distribute without delay the memorandum of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, attached hereto, to the delegates of the States Members of the United Nations as official document, I hope to receive a reply on the result.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my high consideration.

(Signed) PAK SUNG CHUL  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

His Excellency  
U Thant  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York

# **MEMORANDUM**

**OF THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

The United States tries again to illegally bring the "Korean question" before the United Nations General Assembly at its 21st session.

In this connection, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea deems it necessary to elucidate once again its position on the question of Korea's unification.

The question of Korea's unification has focused the attention of the people of the world and the governments of all countries for more than 20 years.

And yet, the question of Korea's unification remains unsolved and Korea is partitioned still now.

The artificial territorial division and the split of a homogeneous nation for more than 20 years have created grave obstacles to the unified political, economic and cultural development in Korea.

An end must be put to this abnormal situation at the earliest date.

The Korean question is a question of restoring the unity of the temporarily divided territory, and it is, accordingly, an internal affair which should be solved by the Korean people themselves.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made all possible efforts to realize the unification of the country, the long-cherished national aspiration of the Korean people, on the principle of national self-determination.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has consistently maintained that the peaceful unification of Korea should be realized by way of establishing a unified all-Korea government represented by all sections of the population through free and democratic North-South general elections by the Korean people themselves without any interference from outside after making the U.S. imperialist aggressive troops and all other foreign troops withdraw from South Korea.

To hold these elections, complete freedom of political activities of political parties, social organizations and individual personages as well as freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration should be fully guaranteed in the whole area of North and South Korea.

The fascist oppression and terrorist rule dominant in South Korea

must be eliminated and all the democratic rights of the South Korean people, which have been trampled underfoot, be restored without delay. Thus, representatives and personages of various circles in North and South Korea must be enabled to discuss with each other in a free atmosphere the supreme national task of realizing the independent unification of the country.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed that if the South Korean authorities could not agree to the free general elections in North and South Korea right now, a confederation of the North and South be established as a transitional step.

The confederation envisaged the setting up of a supreme national committee composed of equal numbers of representatives approved by the two sides mainly for organizing the economic and cultural development of North and South Korea in a uniform way and entering into the broad international fields as a single nation, while retaining the existing socio-political systems in the North and South for the time being and maintaining the independent activities of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and South Korean authorities.

It was suggested by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to organize a committee of purely economic character composed of representatives of the business circles in order to conduct trade between the North and South if the South Korean authorities cannot even accept the North-South confederation.

It is very important to eliminate tension artificially created between the North and South in expediting the solution of the question of Korea's unification.

In this respect, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed that a peace agreement be concluded on not resorting to force of arms against each other, and that the armed forces of North and South Korea be reduced to 100,000 or less respectively, after compelling the U.S. imperialist aggressive troops and all other foreign troops to withdraw from South Korea.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also expressed its readiness to abrogate the military treaties it concluded with foreign countries on condition that the U.S. imperialist aggressive army is withdrawn from South Korea and that the South Korean authorities abolish all the military pacts and agreements they concluded with foreign countries.

It has proposed, as the minimum measure to restore the ties of the divided nation, correspondence between parents, wives and children, be-

tween relatives and between friends, separated into the North and South, and has time and again suggested that it would offer the South Korean people relief supplies, proceeding from the compatriotic desire to lighten their difficulties of living even a little.

All these proposals of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the question of Korea's unification are in full accord not only with the national interests of the entire Korean people but also with the interests of peace in the Far East and the world.

Unfortunately, however, all these just and reasonable proposals have been rejected without exception by the South Korean authorities under U.S. control. Thus, the Korean people cannot even travel freely on the territory of their own country, and parents, wives and children, brothers and sisters are unable even to hear from each other within calling distance.

The U.S. imperialists have imposed untold misfortunes and sufferings upon the Korean people and persistently obstructed the peaceful unification of Korea, while more frenziedly manoeuvring to provoke a new war.

The U.S. imperialists shipped into South Korea large quantities of various new-type weapons including atomic and rocket weapons, and expanded the South Korean puppet troops to more than 600,000, incessantly perpetrating the criminal acts of aggression against North Korea.

Besides, they are machinating to set up a base for nuclear submarines in South Korea.

With an aim of intensifying aggression in Korea and Asia, U.S. imperialism instigated the Japanese militarists and the South Korean puppet clique to conclude the "South Korea-Japan Treaty", thereby aligning them not only politically and economically but also militarily; and it now tries to rig up a new enlarged military bloc of aggression embracing its satellite countries and puppets in the Asian and Pacific regions.

The U.S. imperialists escalate the war of aggression against Vietnam in an effort to save themselves from a shameful defeat they have suffered in South Vietnam and extricate themselves from a blind alley.

They have already hurled in nearly 270,000 aggressive troops and plan to reinforce them up to 400,000 by the end of this year and are manoeuvring on the other hand to rake up more cannon-fodder in the Asian region.

The South Korean authorities take the lead in executing this cannon-fodder collecting plan of U.S. imperialism.

On the instructions of U.S. imperialism Pak Jung Hi has already dispatched 30,000 South Korean puppet soldiers to South Vietnam and is making preparations to send a reinforcement of tens of thousands of men.

The South Korean authorities are trying to maintain their crumbling fascist rule, in payment for their criminal acts committed against the righteous anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of the Vietnamese people for freedom, liberation and national independence.

Pak Jung Hi, in defiance of the will of the South Korean people, faithfully serves the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism which tries to tie down South Korea forever as a military base for aggression in Asia and as a supply base of cheap cannon-fodder.

This creates greater obstacles on the road of Korea's unification, and is an open challenge to the national liberation struggle of the Asian and African peoples and a criminal act undermining world peace.

The successive South Korean authorities, as the stooges of U.S. imperialism, have been opposed to the national liberation movement of the peoples in Asia and Africa.

In 1956, when the imperialists launched an invasion against Egypt, the South Korean authorities clamoured that they would send volunteers to support the imperialists against the Egyptian people. They "pledged" friendship with the Tshombe gang of the Congo (L), the inveterate enemy of the African people, and with the government of the Republic of South Africa, and gave them active support.

Of late, they work in conspiracy with Israel in further intensifying all kinds of subversive activities against the Arab people.

The division of Korea and particularly, the occupation of South Korea by the aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism and its manoeuvres to provoke war constitute a grave menace to peace in the Far East and the world.

Today, the unification of Korea is an urgent question whose solution brooks no delay both in view of the national interests of the Korean people and for the sake of world peace.

1. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that for a just solution of the Korean question, the United Nations should desist from the illegal discussion of the "Korean question".

The United Nations must revoke all the unlawful resolutions on the "Korean question" adopted under U.S. pressure and decide to withdraw the U.S. imperialist aggressive troops and all other foreign troops occupying South Korea under the signboard of the "U.N. Force" and to dissolve at once the "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" rigged up by the U.S. in violation of the U.N. Charter itself.

The United Nations was not entitled from the outset to deal with the Korean question even in the light of its Charter which provides for the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other states.

Furthermore, having been reduced into a belligerent in the Korean war by the United States, the United Nations has even lost the moral authority to concern itself in the Korean question.

Experience shows that the discussion of the "Korean question" conducted at the United Nations every year for the past 19 years was nothing but an annual ritual in which the United States manufactured illegal resolutions arbitrarily in defiance of the will of the Korean people and in violation of the U.N. Charter.

That is why the United Nations, despite the protracted discussions of the "Korean question", did not give any help to the solution of the question but hindered the unification of Korea and aggravated the situation further still.

The United Nations should draw a proper lesson therefrom.

There are no foreign troops in North Korea now. The U.S. imperialist aggressive troops and all other foreign troops should withdraw from South Korea.

The occupation of South Korea by the aggressive troops of U.S. imperialism is the main obstacle to the peaceful unification of Korea.

Today, there is no reason, no pretext whatsoever for the U.S. troops to occupy South Korea.

The U.S. troops are kept in South Korea still today when 13 years have elapsed since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement because the United States wants to secure South Korea forever as a military bridgehead for its aggression in Asia.

The "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" is a tool of U.S. aggression against Korea, which concocts the "annual reports" to camouflage the U.S. imperialist policy of colonial enslavement in South Korea and to justify the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. troops.

To realize the peaceful unification of Korea at the earliest date, the U.S. troops and all other foreign troops must be withdrawn from South Korea first of all and the Korean problem be left to the Korean people themselves.

2. The question of Korea's unification is an internal affair of the Korean people's own, in which the U.N. or any other outside force can



not be permitted to interfere.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has demanded to convene a joint conference of representatives of political parties and social organizations both in North and South Korea or North-South Korea joint conference of some other form, with a view to discussing the question of country's unification.

This is in full accord with the desire of the entire Korean people who aspire after mutual rapprochement and negotiations between North and South Korea.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declares once again that it is prepared and willing to negotiate with any South Korean personages who really desire national unity and country's unification, irrespective of political views, religious faith or property status.

It also considers that a conference of countries concerned may be convened for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, in which countries interested in the Korean question will be represented.

Such a conference of countries concerned, where representatives of North and South Korea, and representatives of countries nominated respectively in equal numbers by the North and South Korean authorities are to participate, could discuss and study means of attaining a lasting peace in Korea and realizing her peaceful unification.

Today the struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea and the realization of the independent unification of Korea constitutes a link in the whole chain of the anti-imperialist national liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples of Asia and Africa against the imperialist policies of colonization and war, and of the struggle of the people all over the world in defence of peace.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is convinced that its just position and demand with regard to the independent peaceful unification of Korea will enjoy support of the peace-loving countries and peoples the world over.

*Pyongyang, July 21, 1966.*