



United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IN REPLY TO

A/956*
4 August 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON KOREA

EIGHTH INFORMATION REPORT**

(Period 3 - 30 July 1949)

Seoul, 4 August 1949

Note by the Secretary-General: The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Members of the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (f) of General Assembly resolution 195 (III) of 12 December 1948, the eighth information report of the United Nations Commission on Korea.

- I. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION
- II. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES
- III. OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION

(a) Meetings of the Commission and Sub-Committees

- 1. (i) Commission 13 plenary meetings (38th-50th)
- (ii) Sub-Committee I... 3 business meetings (37th-39th)
- (iii) Sub-Committee III..2 business meetings (7th 8th)

(b) Office of the Chairman

- 2. Mr. Rufino Luna (Philippines) succeeded Mr. Anup Singh (India) in the Chair on 10 July 1949.

(c) Membership of the Commission

- 3. Mr. Patrick Shaw (Australia) departed from Seoul on 12 July.
- 4. The delegation of El Salvador withdrew from participation in the work of the Commission on 20 July, but resumed its participation on 26 July, (see part II, section (a) (VII) below).

II. MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Plenary meetings of the Commission

- (i) Withdrawal of occupation forces

- 5. At its 38th meeting on 4 July, the Commission considered and adopted

* First issued at Seoul as document A/AC.26/44.

** For the last report see A/931.

the first progress report of Sub-Committee III* dealing with the observation and verification of the withdrawal of United States troops, and containing a recommendation aimed at the application of the Commission's resolution of 20 June** to the occupation forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

6. In accordance with this recommendation, an aide memoire was transmitted to the Secretary-General, with the request to convey the information contained therein to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The aide memoire made reference to the Commission's decisions and the Sub-Committee's activities in respect of the withdrawal of occupation forces, and stated that Sub-Committee III stood ready to carry out the provisions of the General Assembly resolution of 12 December 1948 in respect of the occupation forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

7. The letter of transmittal to the Secretary-General and the aide memoire were subsequently released at the same time at Lake Success and in Seoul (Annex 1).

8. At its 48th meeting on 27 July, the Commission adopted the second progress report of Sub-Committee III*. The conclusions of the Sub-Committee, to the effect that the withdrawal of the United States occupation forces in Korea had been completed on 29 June 1949, that United States military authorities no longer had rights of control of the Korean security forces, and that the United States Government no longer possessed, or controlled, military equipment in Korea, were adopted by the Commission in the form of a resolution.*

(ii) Final report of Sub-Committee I

9. At its 39th meeting on 8 July, the Commission discussed and adopted the final report of Sub-Committee I consisting of a review of the Sub-Committee's organization, activities and enquiries, of its findings and recommendations, and pertinent appendices.

10. Of the six recommendations contained in the report, the Commission decided to make public only those pertaining to the continuation of the work of the Sub-Committee, to the Commission's willingness to assist in discussions between representatives of the north and the south, to its assistance in the resumption of trade between the north and south, and to

* This document will be reproduced as an annex to the report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

** See seventh information report (A/931, Annex 3).

the cessation of propaganda designed to influence ill-feeling between the two zones (Annex 2).

11. The remaining two recommendations will be found in the report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

12. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea took cognizance of the published recommendations on 12 and 13 July and in discussing them, some Assemblymen criticized the Commission and its members severely. Upon the recommendation of Sub-Committee I, the Commission decided, at its 42nd meeting on 22 July, to issue a press release (Annex 3) deploring the reflection cast upon its members and stressing the oneness of the Commission and its Secretariat.

(iii) "Manifesto" from North Korea

13. A "Manifesto" of the Democratic Front for the Attainment of Unification of the Fatherland was received by members of the Commission and of the Secretariat individually by mail from North Korea*. Addressed to "countrymen" and "members of political parties and social organizations" it announced a programme of "simultaneous elections throughout Korea for a unified legislative origin" in September 1949. Together with attacks against the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, it contained a demand that the Commission withdraw from Korea.

14. The practicability of the mail channel having thus been demonstrated, the Commission decided, at its 40th meeting on 12 July, to use it and mail to General Kim Il Sung a copy of the letter previously sent via Hongkong**. A covering note was to explain the technical reason for this step, and to make clear that the letter was not a reply or acknowledgment of the "Manifesto".

15. At the 41st meeting on 20 July, the Commission considered a report of Sub-Committee I, including the text of a recommended broadcast which, while it was not conceived as a direct answer to the "Manifesto", made reference to the latter. It was decided to defer discussion of the recommendation in view of a previous decision to discontinue broadcasts (see section (V) below).

(iv) Arrests of National Assembly members and of Korean reporters

16. At its 40th meeting on 12 July, the Commission took cognizance of the arrest of Kim Yak Soo and five National Assemblymen who had submitted

* This document will be reproduced as an annex to the report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

** See third information report (A/904, paragraph 6) and sixth information report (A/928, Annex 2, B).

a petition to the Commission on 17 June*. The published charges against them were that they had acted as instruments of the South Korea Labour Party in the National Assembly and that their petition to the Commission had been presented in the discharge of orders received from that party.

17. It was decided not to pursue this matter for the time being as there was no evidence that the charge was to be construed as meaning that the act of addressing a petition to the Commission was regarded as a crime.

18. At its 41st and 42nd meetings on 20 and 22 July, the Commission considered information which had become available on the arrest, on charges of being members of a subversive party of five of the Korean journalists who had been attending its press conferences. The Commission decided, at its 42nd meeting, to meet this development with a modification of its press relations practices, and issued the following press release:

"The Commission, having taken note of the recent arrest of five of the newspapermen assigned to it, and being anxious to avoid any further repercussions which might affect correspondents assigned to cover the activities of the United Nations Commission on Korea, has decided to suspend all press conferences until further notice. For the time being only press releases will be issued".

(v) Planned broadcasts of the Commission

19. As a means of communicating with the public of South and North Korea, the Commission approved, at its 38th meeting on 4 July, a programme of broadcasts to be made by its members over the Seoul radio station of the Republic of Korea. An invitation to make such broadcasts had been extended by the Director of the Office of Public Information on the occasion of the Commission's broadcast to North Korea**.

20. A first draft broadcast was submitted to the Office of Public Information, and the latter suggested the omission from the text of a reference to the Commission's task of helping Korea to achieve "its full independence". It argued that with the establishment of the Republic of Korea, full independence had been achieved.

21. Although its attention was called to the fact that the phrase was taken directly from the General Assembly resolution under which the Commission functions, the Office of Public Information maintained its

* See seventh information report (A/931, Annex 6, A).

** See seventh information report (A/931, paragraphs 11 and 12).

objection.

22. At its 41st meeting on 20 July, the Commission decided to abandon the broadcasting programme (Annex 4).

(vi) Communications from the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea

23. At its 41st meeting on 20 July, the Commission considered two letters addressed to its Chairman by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 1 July and 11 July respectively.*

24. The first letter informed the Commission that the people and the Government were deeply appreciative of its efforts and acknowledged the good-will and prestige of the United Nations. It expressed the hope that the Commission would remain in Korea, where its tasks were not yet completed, for at least another year, and requested it to "communicate this matter to the United Nations General Assembly and obtain its concurrence".

25. The second letter drew the Commission's attention to "a record of some of the more flagrant examples of attack by the so-called 'People's Army' of North Korea upon the communities and security forces south of the 38th parallel".

26. Believing that these attacks were likely "to produce conditions which will be dangerous to the peace of the Orient", the Foreign Minister suggested that if a unit of United Nations military observers were stationed in Korea it could "retard and stop these unlawful attacks". He requested the Commission to transmit the suggestion to the General Assembly and to recommend favourable action.

27. At its 41st meeting on 20 July, the Commission decided to assure the Foreign Minister that his suggestions would be recorded in the report to the General Assembly.

(vii) Withdrawal of the delegation of El Salvador

28. At its 41st meeting on 20 July, the Commission was informed by the representative of El Salvador that his Government had decided on the immediate withdrawal of its delegation to the Commission.

29. A resolution was adopted expressing the Commission's dismay and regret "at the loss of the wisdom and counsel of the representatives of El Salvador", stressing the necessity for their presence during the consideration of the final report to the General Assembly, and requesting the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution to the Government of

* These documents will be reproduced as an annex to the report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

El Salvador (Annex 5).

30. At its 47th meeting on 26 July, the Commission learned that the Government of El Salvador had decided to resume participation in the work of the Commission "up to the completion of the present stage of the Commission's work".

(viii) Report of the Commission to the General Assembly

31. The draft report was submitted in parts by the Rapporteur, Mr. Liu Yu-Wan (China), and discussed by the Commission, at its 38th, 40th and 42nd to 50th meetings.

32. The report was adopted unanimously under the chairmanship of Mr. Rufino Luna (Philippines), and was signed by the members of the Commission at the 50th meeting on 28 July.

33. A Press release was issued on the same date, stating that "the completion of the report does not imply that the Commission considers its labours as ended".

(b) Work of the Sub-Committees

(i) Sub-Committee I

34. The three business meetings of Sub-Committee I dealt with its final report to the Commission, the "Manifesto" from the north, and discussions in the National Assembly. The decisions of the Commission in respect of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee concerning these matters are reported under the respective headings in section (a) above.

(ii) Sub-Committee III

35. In addition to two business meetings, Sub-Committee III held a meeting with Ambassador Muccio of the United States of America, members of his staff and the Commanding General of the Korean Military Advisory Group.

36. A member of the Sub-Committee, the alternate representative of El Salvador, accompanied by members of the Secretariat, inspected former United States military installations at Pusan on 9 and 10 July 1949.

37. By 27 July, the Sub-Committee had completed the gathering of information concerning the withdrawal of United States occupation forces from Korea (see section (a) (1) above).

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

38. On the occasion of a student demonstration in front of the Commission's headquarters on 16 July, at which demands for arms and for United Nations-supervised elections in North Korea were voiced, two members of the Commission addressed the demonstrators briefly.

39. On 5 July, the Commission attended the funeral services of the assassinated leader, Kim Koo. An address was made by the Chairman on this occasion (Annex 6).

ANNEX 1

PRESS RELEASE NO. 31, 13 JULY 1949

The following announcement is released simultaneously by the United Nations Headquarters at Lake Success and by the United Nations Commission on Korea at Seoul:

The Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Korea addressed the following letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 4 July 1949:

"Sir,

"On the instructions of the United Nations Commission on Korea, I have the honour to request you to convey the information contained in the attached aide memoire to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

"Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Anup Singh, Chairman
United Nations Commission on Korea"

The text of the aide-memoire is as follows:

"The United Nations Commission on Korea, by resolution adopted at its thirty-third meeting on 13 June 1949, established Sub-Committee III and charged it to examine and report to the Commission procedures to be employed in the observation and verification of the withdrawal of United States occupation forces from Korea. By resolution adopted at its thirty-fifth meeting on 20 June 1949, the Commission charged Sub-Committee III with the task of actual observation and verification of the withdrawal of occupation forces from Korea. The texts of both resolutions are attached.*

"In accordance with the directions contained in the resolution of 20 June 1949, Sub-Committee III has completed its observation of the withdrawal of United States occupation forces from Korea and is now engaged in a verification of the fact of such withdrawal.

"Sub-Committee III now stands ready, in respect of the occupation forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, whenever proper facilities are afforded for the purpose, to carry out on behalf of the Commission the duties laid upon the latter by paragraph 4 (d), of the General Assembly resolution of 12 December 1948.

Seoul, Korea"

This text has been transmitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at Lake Success, for transmittal to his Government.

* See seventh information report, A/931, Annexes 2 and 3.

ANNEX 2

PRESS RELEASE NO. 30, 9 JULY 1949

The Commission at its 39th meeting on 8 July 1949, had before it for consideration various findings and recommendations relating to the problem of unification of Korea and the reduction of barriers between north and south submitted by Sub-Committee I.

After authorizing the Sub-Committee to continue exploring all possible means of effecting unification, it was decided that the Commission should:

1. Make known its willingness and readiness to assist in any discussions between representatives of the north and the south to consider plans and possibilities for the unification of Korea;*
2. Offer its assistance for the purpose of a resumption of legitimate trade between north and south on a trial basis;
3. Recommend the cessation of all propaganda - emanating from within or outside of Korea - designed to inflame ill-feeling between the two zones of Korea as being highly detrimental to the prospects of unification.

In connexion with the first of the decisions quoted above, the Commission would be prepared to assist in discussions and deliberations between leaders of the north and south. The Commission would lend its assistance only if there was a reasonable prospect of both sections allowing the participation of representatives of all shades of opinions. There must be a sincere desire for conciliation and understanding. The initiative must come from the Koreans themselves. The Commission will help in any constructive negotiations between the north and the south.

* This recommendation was adopted in the presence of five members of the Commission by a vote of 3 to 1 and 1 abstention.

ANNEX 3

PRESS RELEASE NO. 34, 25 JULY 1949

The attention of the Commission has been drawn to the debate in the National Assembly on 12-13 July 1949 during which derogatory remarks were made about members of the Commission by certain members of the Assembly.

It was stated, inter alia, that the Commission had acted contrary to the national policy of the Republic of Korea and that its recommendations were the "acts of Communist fifth column". Both these allegations are utterly unfounded.

While the Commission recognizes and appreciates wholeheartedly the right and the privilege of any legislator to speak his mind freely on any subject, it deplores the reflection cast upon its members.

If any assurance is necessary, the Commission would like to assure all Koreans that it is here to serve the cause of Korea to the best of its ability, in line with United Nations policies.

It regrets that any responsible member of the National Assembly should have deemed it necessary to question the motives of any member of the Commission. Such allegations can only jeopardize the work of the Commission. The Commission is one, and any derogatory remarks made against a member of a delegation or a member of the secretariat constitute a reflection on the whole Commission.

ANNEX 4*

KOREAN BROADCASTS BY THE COMMISSION

Exchange of Communications Between the Principal Secretary and
Clarence Ryee, Director of the Office of Public Information of
The Republic of Korea

The following correspondence referring to the regular United Nations Commission on Korea broadcasts which it was intended to deliver over the broadcasting station of the Korean Government (HLKA) is herewith circulated for information purposes.

On 14 July 1949, after consultation with the representative of Australia, the Principal Secretary addressed a letter to Dr. Clarence Ryee, Director, Office of Public Information, who had suggested omitting in the original text of the broadcast the words "and to gain its full independence" from the last paragraph of the first page. The attention of the Director of the OPI was drawn to the fact that the text used in the broadcast corresponded almost literally to the text of the resolution of the General Assembly of 12 December 1948 and corresponded to the terms of reference of the Commission. The following suggestion was also made:

"In order, however, to make it correspond fully to the actual words used in the resolution. I suggest that the words 'and to gain its full independence' should be replaced by the words 'and to gain its complete independence'."

In reply, the following letter was received from Dr. Ryee:

Seoul
16 July 1949

I am in receipt of your letter, dated 14 July 1949 in regard to the matter of your draft for broadcasting.

I am glad you referred to the terms of the United Nations General Assembly resolution of December 12, 1948, which states in paragraph 8:

"Calls upon Member States to refrain from any acts derogatory to the results achieved and to be achieved by the United Nations in bringing about the complete independence and unity of Korea."

This is just what we have in mind.

In Mr. Jamieson's broadcast he quoted from this paragraph. If this broadcast was made before the establishment of the Republic of Korea, it would be an accurate statement of the fact; but it is not accurate now, because UNCOK has achieved one of the two objectives which is independence, since the Republic was established and supported by vote of forty-eight nations. Now the only objective

that the United Nations Commission should strive to achieve is unification. Therefore, we say it is not true that the United Nations Commission is still striving to achieve two objectives; unification and independence as if nothing has been achieved.

If it is still the desire of the United Nations Commission to say that none of these objectives has been achieved, we must insist on saying that the United Nations Commission has achieved at least one of these objectives; Independence.

I hope you will see our point of view and let me have your decision.

(Signed) Clarence RYEE
(Director)
Office of Public Information

To this, the Principal Secretary replied as follows:

Seoul, 21 July 1949

The contents of your letter of 16 July 1949 regarding the text of Mr. Jamieson's projected broadcast were brought to the attention of the Commission at its 41st meeting on 20 July 1949.

The Commission is unable to concur in the view expressed in your letter. The text which you question contains the actual words used in the General Assembly resolution. The General Assembly, in calling upon Member States to refrain from any acts derogatory to the results to be achieved by the United Nations in bringing about the complete independence of Korea, declared that the complete independence of Korea was to be achieved in the future. The Commission does not find that any change has occurred in this respect since the date of the resolution.

The Commission was unanimously of the opinion that a change in the text of the broadcast could not be considered. I am requested to add, on behalf of the Commission that, in these circumstances, it does not desire to avail itself of the radio facilities of your Government in connection with its proposed programme of regular UNCOK broadcasts.

(Signed) Egon Ranshofen-Wertheimer,
Principal Secretary

ANNEX 5*

WITHDRAWAL OF THE DELEGATION OF EL SALVADOR FROM THE COMMISSION

Resolution adopted by the Commission at its
41st meeting, 20 July 1949

The Commission,

Having been informed by the representative of El Salvador of the decision of his Government to withdraw its delegation to the United Nations Commission on Korea.

Desires to convey to the Government of El Salvador this expression of its dismay and keen regret at the loss of the wisdom and counsel of the representatives of El Salvador, and its sense of the imperative necessity that the Government of El Salvador should continue to be represented in the Commission while the latter is completing consideration of its final report to the General Assembly, and

Requests the Secretary-General to transmit immediately this resolution to the El Salvadorean Government and to urge it to reconsider its decision, or at least to defer application thereof until the Commission has completed the present stage of its work.

ANNEX 6

PRESS RELEASE NO. 29, 25 JULY 1949.

The United Nations Commission on Korea attended the funeral services of the late Kim Koo. On this occasion, the Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Anup Singh, (India) made the following address at the Seoul Stadium:

"I am here on this sad and tragic day to convey to the people of Korea the condolence of the United Nations Commission on Korea.

The day we heard the shocking news of Kim Koo's assassination, we expressed and communicated our feelings to Kim Koo's son and to the President of your Republic.

Kim Koo dedicated his entire life to the cause of Korea's freedom from the domination of the Japanese. He spent the greater part of his life away from his homeland working day and night for the liberation of his country. His dream, and the dream of all Koreans, was at long last realised, and though he died at the hand of an assassin, his own compatriot, he lived even though for a very short period, in a liberated Korea. My mind goes back to the murder of Gandhi in India, who after spending his entire life in the cause of his people, fell victim to the bullet of a Hindu. It is unbelievable and ironical that this should be the reward for patriotism.

We are fully conscious of the place he held in the hearts of Koreans. The presence here of this vast multitude is an eloquent testimony of the homage you wish to pay to his memory. He is no longer with you in the mortal sense, but his memory will live for ever. I hope that Koreans will utilise this tragic moment to dedicate themselves to the ideals for which Kim Koo lived and died. There is an unfinished task ahead of you and that is the unification of your motherland. Kim Koo yearned for that happy day. I recall vividly his fervent desire for unification when I called upon him personally some time ago. The best homage you can pay him is to work for the unification of Korea by peaceful means, in which he ardently believed. He expressed the same feelings to the United Nations Commission when he appeared at an official interview recently.

Death is the inevitable end of all human beings, but those who live and work for noble ideals, never die. Kim Koo was one of these: he will live forever in the hearts of the people."
