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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 14 August 1987, was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations. In accordance with the request contained in the letter, the text is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 14 August 1987 from the Permanent Observer of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 6 August 1987.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed statement of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations

Enclosure

Statement of the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public a statement containing a new disarmament proposal on 23 July out of a desire to remove the tensions prevailing on the Korean peninsula and open a bright prospect for national reunification.

This arms reduction proposal of ours is enjoying widespread support and sympathy worldwide as it reflects the unanimous desire of the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world.

The south Korean authorities published a "statement of the foreign ministry" on 3 August, clarifying their stand on our proposal for arms reduction.

In the "statement" the south Korean authorities ignored our proposal for multi-national disarmament negotiations and contended that if the "pending problems" between the north and the south were to be solved, it would be necessary to resume the "suspended dialogues", and proposed to hold talks between the Foreign Ministers of the north and the south to discuss such issues as the conclusion of a "non-aggression agreement", "simultaneous entry into the United Nations" and "cross-recognition".

By proposing north-south Foreign Ministers' talks to discuss such issues as "simultaneous entry into the United Nations" and "cross-recognition", the south Korean authorities mean to exploit them for the purpose of perpetuating the division of the country and the nation rather than discussing such essential issues as the relaxation of tensions in Korea and the acceleration of the peaceful reunification of the country.

This is very unjustifiable.

None the less, we welcome in principle the proposal of the south Korean authorities to have a dialogue with us itself, proceeding from the invariable stand to bridge over the difficulties lying in the way of national reunification through dialogue and negotiations.

If a dialogue for easing the tensions and preserving and consolidating peace on the Korean peninsula is to be oriented to a right direction, it is urgently required, above all, to solve the problem of arms reduction.

Only when complete disarmament is realized can we remove the acute military and political confrontation, dispel distrust and misunderstanding between the north and the south, create an atmosphere of trust between them and make a breakthrough for the peaceful reunification of the country.

A solution to this fundamental problem is inevitably linked to the issue of United States forces present in south Korea.

It is indispensable, therefore, that the United States should attend talks discussing the issue of disarmament. No effective measure will be taken without the participation of the United States.

Hence, we hold that not only the Foreign Ministers of the north and the south but also the Secretary of State in the United States which is directly responsible for the tensions on the Korean peninsula should participate in talks for a solution to the issue of arms reduction.

We consider that the issue of disarmament directly related to the United States should be discussed at talks among the Foreign Ministers of the north and the south and the United States Secretary of State, and that other issues within the nation which are related to national reunification should be solved by our nation itself through dialogue between the north and the south.

The south Korean side, too, this time indicated that the "pending issues" between the north and the south should be discussed and solved through talks between themselves on the principle of national self-determination.

We have maintained, from the beginning, that no foreign forces should be allowed to meddle in the solution of issues within the nation and that the issues related to national reunification should be solved independently by our nation itself on the principle of national self-determination.

It is clear to everybody that there are problems to be solved with the participation of the United States, whereas others should be left to be solved by our nation alone as regards the Korean issue.

We consider that the discussion and solution of the internal problems of the nation related to the reunification of the country may be realized through the Premiers' talks which the north and the south had already discussed to reach an understanding.

If the Premiers' talks are held, the problems of the resumption of the "past dialogues", such as Red Cross talks, economic talks and preliminary contact for parliamentary talks, will be solved simultaneously.

Then the "problem of water resources" may be also discussed.

From such a point of view the Government of our Republic decided to propose to have talks between the Foreign Ministers of the north and the south with the participation of the United States Secretary of State in Geneva or in any other convenient place at an early date in order to discuss first the arms reduction problem and all other problems for détente on the Korean peninsula.

Talks between the Foreign Ministers may take the form of bilateral talks when necessary.

If talks between the Foreign Ministers are held smoothly, a favourable atmosphere will be created for multinational negotiation involving the delegates of the member nations of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission as observers, we think.

In order to successfully ensure talks between the Foreign Ministers of the north and south involving the United States, we propose to have preliminary talks of vice-minister level in Panmunjom towards the end of August 1987, or at a date to be agreed upon between the two sides.

If there is any inconvenience for the United States and the south Korean authorities to hold preliminary talks, we consider it possible to have two-channel bilateral preliminary talks - talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and those between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and south Korea.

In this case, north-south preliminary talks will be held in Panmunjom and preliminary talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States in New York or in any other place convenient to each other.

Considering that at the present juncture it is a pressing problem which brooks no further delay to ease the tensions on the Korean peninsula and ensure peace there, we hope that the United States and the south Korean authorities will affirmatively respond to our sincere proposal.

Pyongyang, 6 August 1987
