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Seventeenth session

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS; REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION  
OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

The Withdrawal of Foreign Troops from South Korea

Letter dated 23 June 1962 from the Acting Permanent Representative  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations,  
addressed to the Acting Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,  
I would ask you to include the following question in the agenda of the seventeenth  
session of the United Nations General Assembly: "The withdrawal of foreign troops  
from South Korea".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, I attach an explanatory  
memorandum on this question.

(Signed) P. MOROZOV  
Acting Permanent Representative of the USSR  
to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Nine years have passed since the end of the war in Korea, but there are still foreign troops, mainly from the United States, on South Korean territory.
2. The presence of foreign troops creates a disturbed and tense situation in the region of Korea and causes the peace-loving states in the Far East to have legitimate fears for their security. It is quite clear that as long as the United States and other foreign troops remain in South Korea, there will not be and cannot be lasting peace in the area.
3. The United States armed forces command is building military installations on a large scale in the south of the Korean peninsula and holds many military exercises and manoeuvres, in which detachments from other countries, including South Korea, take part. The foreign troops regularly violate the armistice agreement and provoke incidents on the southern borders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
4. The foreign troops in South Korea are under the United Nations flag. Consequently, their actions in the southern part of the Korean peninsula do serious harm to the authority and prestige of the United Nations.
5. South Korea is in effect in the position of an occupied country. The presence of foreign troops has left a grievous imprint on the internal life of the country and violates the national dignity of the Korean people. The people of South Korea have been reduced to a state of utter impoverishment. Their standard of living is lower than in many other economically backward Eastern countries. The responsibility for the grave situation in the southern part of the country lies mainly with the United States, whose troops have been occupying South Korea for a long time.
6. In these circumstances the people of South Korea, showing legitimate rage and indignation at the situation in the country, demand that the occupation régime should be liquidated as quickly as possible and the Koreans given an opportunity to find their own solutions to problems of vital importance to the nation.
7. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has repeatedly put forward constructive plans for the unification of Korea on a peaceful democratic basis, but the United States has rejected all such proposals. The facts show that the United States is not interested in the unification of Korea or the establishment

of an independent, democratic Korean State, for that would not correspond to its expansionist aims in the Far East. It is perfectly obvious that, so long as there are foreign troops in the south of the Korean peninsula, Korea cannot be unified by peaceful means. The foreign occupation of South Korea is the main obstacle to the peaceful reunification of the country and to the final liquidation of a dangerous breeding-ground of tension in that area.

8. As is known, the Chinese People's Volunteer units were withdrawn from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by October 1958, and there have been no foreign troops in its territory for the past four years. There is no justification whatsoever for United States or other foreign troops to remain in South Korea.

9. The Soviet Government considers that the United Nations, which is bound by its Charter to promote the maintenance of peace and security by every possible means, cannot and must not remain indifferent to the presence of foreign troops in South Korea.

10. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics considers it necessary that the General Assembly should examine at the seventeenth session the question of "The withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea", and thus promote the establishment of a lasting peace in Korea and throughout the Far East.

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