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THE KOREAN QUESTION

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Members of the General Assembly the text of a cablegram dated ~~16 October 1953~~ from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, ~~addressed to the President of the General Assembly.~~

53-28958

CABLEGRAM DATED ~~19~~ OCTOBER 1953 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ADDRESSED TO THE ~~PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE~~ SECRETARY-GENERAL

8 December
Pyongyang, ~~19~~ October 1953

ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO TRANSMIT TO YOU HEREWITH THE TEXT OF THE APPENDED COMMUNICATION, WHICH HAS ALREADY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, BEEN SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA THROUGH THE SWEDISH MISSION IN PEKING. AND I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ASK YOU TO DISTRIBUTE IT TO ALL STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

TRUSTING THAT YOU WILL SEE FIT TO ACCEDE TO THE ABOVE REQUEST AND THAT YOU WILL ADVISE ME OF YOUR ACTION, I THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION.- NAM IL, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 19 OCTOBER 1953.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS RECEIVED THE COMMUNICATION DATED 14 OCTOBER 1953 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TRANSMITTED TO IT THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN, AND HAS STUDIED IT TOGETHER WITH THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. I AM HEREBY EMPOWERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING:

"1. IN ITS COMMUNICATION OF 14 OCTOBER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ASSERTED THAT GENERAL NAM IL, SENIOR DELEGATE OF THE KOREAN AND CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS, INSISTED IN THE PAST THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONFINED TO GOVERNMENTS OF STATES CONCERNED ON BOTH SIDES. THAT IS TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS. ON 4 FEBRUARY 1952, WHEN AGENDA ITEM 5 OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS WAS UNDER DISCUSSION, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES TRIED TO ATTACH TO ONE OF THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES IN KOREA THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHO HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, THEREFORE, GENERAL NAM IL EXPLICITLY DEFINED THE TERM 'GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ON EACH SIDE' AS MEANING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON THE SIDE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS,

AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON THE SIDE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND. GENERAL NAM IL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN NO CASE SHOULD THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHO HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR, BE ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE TWO BELLIGERENT PARTIES IN KOREA. THIS INTERPRETATION WAS AGREED TO AT THAT TIME BY VICE-ADMIRAL JOY, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND. DURING THE ENTIRE COURSE OF THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS, THE KOREAN AND CHINESE DELEGATION NEVER AT ANY TIME INSISTED THAT THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE OPEN TO THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER NEUTRAL NATIONS CONCERNED.

"IT IN NO WAY FOLLOWS FROM PARAGRAPH 60 OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT THAT NEUTRAL NATIONS CONCERNED MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS RECOGNIZED IN PARAGRAPH B OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 430TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS NOT ONE OF THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE; THIS SHOWS THAT THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS THEREFORE THAT THE PROPOSITION ON WHICH IT HAS INSISTED ALL ALONG, NAMELY, THAT THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE SHOULD INCLUDE THE NEUTRAL NATIONS CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY THE ASIAN NEUTRAL NATIONS CONCERNED, AS WELL AS THE PARTIES WHICH FOUGHT IN KOREA, IS COMPLETELY CORRECT.

"2. INSTEAD OF ACCEPTING, ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THEIR CABLES DATED 13 AND 14 SEPTEMBER IN REPLY TO MR. DAG HAMMARSKJOLD, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND SELECTING THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE FROM AMONG THE BELLIGERENT PARTIES AND OTHER NEUTRAL NATIONS CONCERNED, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BOWING TO THE WILL OF A MINORITY OF STATES, REJECTED THE REASONABLE PROPOSALS OF THE CHINESE AND KOREAN SIDE, THUS IGNORING THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA EXPRESSES ITS DEEP REGRET AT THIS.

"3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR FUNDAMENTAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THE PROMPT CALLING OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HEREBY STATES THAT IT IS WILLING TO APPOINT JOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AT PANMUNJOM ON 26 OCTOBER IN ORDER TO CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS ON THE CALLING OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE.

"4. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS THAT THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THESE TALKS COULD INCLUDE THE QUESTION OF THE PLACE AND TIME OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, RELATED PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE AS SET FORTH IN THE COMMUNICATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS, HOWEVER, THAT THE QUESTION TO BE SETTLED FIRST AT THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE - THE COMPOSITIONS OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA THEREFORE EXPLICITLY DECLARES THAT IT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE AT THE DISCUSSIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND SETTLEMENT.
-- NAM IL, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PYONGYANG, 19 OCTOBER 1953."
