

UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED ACTION FOR PEACE

Note dated 20 September 1950 from the Chairman of the
United States Delegation to the Secretary-General

New York, 20 September 1950

The Chairman of the United States delegation to the fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the item entitled "United Action for Peace" submitted for inclusion in the agenda of the fifth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly by the United States. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, copies of an explanatory memorandum on this item are attached.

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Explanatory Memorandum on the Item "United Action for Peace" Submitted
by the United States for Inclusion in the Agenda of the Fifth Regular
Session of the United Nations General Assembly

UNITED ACTION FOR PEACE

The Charter gives the General Assembly important functions to perform in the field of international peace and security, including the right to discuss any question relating to this field, and the right to make recommendations. The experience of the United Nations in the five years since the Charter came into force has demonstrated the value of the Assembly's role. In the view of the United States, the Assembly's contribution can be enhanced both with respect to the avoidance of conflicts and with respect to the restoration of peace if need arises.

The General Assembly should be enabled to meet on very short notice in case of any breach of international peace or act of aggression if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, is unable to discharge its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. To this end, the United States proposes that the Assembly make provision for emergency special sessions to be convoked in 24 hours at the request of either a majority of United Nations Members or any seven Members of the Security Council.

The United Nations found it most helpful to have in Korea a Commission which could and did report authoritatively on the events of June 1950 in that country. The United States believes that the Assembly should now establish and maintain in being a commission of observers available to travel and to observe in any area in which international tension develops; the reports from such a commission would provide reliable information to the United Nations as a basis for the consideration of problems by the Security Council or the General Assembly.

United Nations military forces, pursuant to Article 43 of the Charter, have not yet been established. In this important respect the structure and machinery of the United Nations are incomplete. To fill the gap, pending the conclusion of agreements in accordance with Article 43, the United States believes the General Assembly should recommend to the Members of the United Nations that they designate within their national armed forces United Nations units so trained, equipped, and maintained that they can be made available for prompt

/service on behalf

service on behalf of the United Nations, upon either a determination by the Security Council or a recommendation of the General Assembly. The United States favors also the appointment of a United Nations Military Adviser to consult with Members wishing to designate United Nations Units in regard to the organization, training and equipping of such forces. The United States believes that each Member should be invited by the Assembly to survey its resources in order to determine what assistance it could render in accordance with any United Nations action to restore international peace and security.

To assist in making these planning measures effective, the General Assembly should establish an ad hoc committee to study the means which the United Nations might employ through collective action to suppress breaches of the peace and repel acts of aggression.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that these proposals have the primary aim of preventing breaches of the peace and deterring acts of aggression and thereby minimizing the necessity of resorting to measures for the restoration of international peace and security. The purpose of the United States proposals is to give maximum effectiveness to United Nations efforts in keeping the peace.
