



**Security Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/21957  
21 November 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 16 November 1990, 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.

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Annex

Letter dated 16 November 1990 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

H.E. Mr. Thomas R. Pickering  
President  
Security Council  
United Nations

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the Statement of 16 November 1990 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon  
Ambassador  
Permanent Observer

Enclosure

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

To remove the danger of a nuclear war in Korea is a very urgent problem both in view of the strained situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula and of peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The DPRK Government joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as part of the practical measures to resolve this problem and, on June 23, 1986, put forward a proposal to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone. And on November 9, 1989, it proposed negotiations concerning the issue of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and has made every sincere effort to put it into effect.

If this measure had been carried into practice, it would have been greatly conducive to realizing the idea of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the Korean peninsula and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation system worldwide.

Though much time has passed since then, there has been no progress in the settlement of this problem. The U.S. authorities, calling the DPRK to account for the failure to sign the safeguards agreement under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), are now crying that it would deter the improvement of its relations with the United States and affect the improvement of its relations with other countries, too.

Such allegation of the United States is nothing but an attempt to reverse the fact itself and lead the problem to an erroneous direction.

According to an announcement of the IAEA some time ago, the question of signing a nuclear safeguard agreement has not yet been solved not because of the relations between the IAEA and our country but because of the relations between the DPRK and the United States. This is a view which correctly reflects the present situation.

Truth to tell, there have been several rounds of sincere negotiations between us and the IAEA and, as a result, an agreement in principle for signing a nuclear safeguards agreement has been reached and we are ready to sign it any moment.

But the point here is that the United States which should discharge its obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in south Korea and refuses to give assurances that it would remove the threat of nuclear attack on our country, a non-nuclear state.

As is clear to everyone, we can sign a nuclear safeguards agreement only on condition that the United States gives legal assurances that it would not resort to a nuclear threat against us.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty premises a guarantee of the security of non-nuclear nations. If the United States which poses a direct nuclear threat to our country has the intention to faithfully fulfil its obligations under the treaty as the state with which the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is deposited, and truly wants us to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement, there is no ground for it to refuse to give assurances that it would remove the nuclear threat to us as we justly demand.

It is entirely unjust for the United States to speak ill of us while failing to do what it should do and cry that the problem of the nuclear safeguards agreement is a precondition in the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations and it has bearing on the improvement of relations with other countries, too.

The Government of our Republic is prepared to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement in conformity with its nuclear-free, peace policy and is making efforts for its materialization. If a nuclear safeguards agreement is to be signed today when all the problems between us and the IAEA have been solved, it is necessary to hold negotiation between the DPRK and the United States. But the United States does not respond to our proposal for negotiation.

If the United States want to use for any other purpose the problem of signing a nuclear safeguards agreement which is an issue between the DPRK and the United States, it will only make this problem more complicate and will not serve as a way for the solution of this issue.

For us who are under the constant nuclear threat of the United States, the question of signing a nuclear safeguards agreement is directly linked with the question of removing the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula in accordance with the idea of the treaty and defending the fundamental interests of the country and the right to existence of our nation. We will not allow this to be an object of diplomatic bargaining. If the United States want to see the solution of the problem of signing a nuclear safeguards agreement, it should come out to the negotiating table with us at an early date.

The DPRK Government declares once again that it will, in the future, too, take sincere efforts to solve this problem and is ready to respond to negotiation with the United States for the purpose.

