



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22024
20 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 20 December 1990, was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Permanent Observer of the 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 20 December 1990 from the Permanent Observer of
the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to you a memorandum of the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning Korea's membership in the United Nations.

(Signed) Hong-choo HYUN
Permanent Observer of the
Republic of Korea
to the United Nations

Enclosure

Memorandum of the Government of the Republic of Korea
concerning Korea's membership in the United Nations

The forty-fifth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations has provided a crucial momentum for membership of the Republic of Korea in the United Nations.

During the general debate of the General Assembly, nearly three quarters of the United Nations membership addressed the "Korea question" in their national statements. The majority of these speakers voiced, in an unequivocal and forceful manner, their support for the admission of the Republic of Korea to membership in the United Nations, either separately, or together with North Korea, if the latter wishes to do so.

In welcoming the admission of Namibia and of the Principality of Liechtenstein, most speakers emphasized that universal United Nations membership for all States is essential to the work of the United Nations, particularly as it is assuming a central role in the new world order.

It has also been pointed out that the admission of the Republic of Korea, preferably together with that of North Korea, can be effected without prejudice to the ultimate goal of Korea's reunification. Many speakers found, in the unification of the two Germanies and the two Yemens, the validation of the position of the Republic of Korea that the dual membership of divided nations does not constitute any impediment to their ultimate unification, but rather facilitates the process of dialogue and co-operation towards that goal within the framework of the United Nations.

These developments have led to the belief that the sense of the General Assembly has now emerged that Korea should be fully represented at the United Nations without further delay, thus ending the last remaining legacy of the cold war within the United Nations.

Special attention should be drawn to the fact that not a single country advocated the "single-seat membership" formula proposed by North Korea. The silence of the entire United Nations membership on this proposal simply demonstrates its disapproval of this impracticable North Korean formula.

The Government of the Republic of Korea avails itself of this opportunity to express deep gratitude to those Member States that expressed their support for its legitimate cause.

South and North Korea have been engaged in historic inter-Korean Prime Ministers' talks since September 1990. During the three rounds of talks held in September, October and December, both sides discussed a wide range of issues of mutual concern, particularly ways to promote inter-Korean exchanges and to build confidence in political and military areas.

Although the issue of United Nations membership is a matter between an applicant State and the United Nations, not subject to any extraneous considerations, the Republic of Korea made use of these occasions to exchange views with North Korea on the issue of Korea's membership in the United Nations. This particular issue has been the subject of several separate meetings of senior government experts from both sides, and of other bilateral contacts, not only inter-Korean, but also among the concerned countries.

During the course of all of these meetings and contacts, the Republic of Korea has made every effort in good faith to respond to the wishes of the Korean people and the international community for the early and full representation of the Republic of Korea, desirably together with North Korea, as was expressed during the general debate, and has made it clear that it will not oppose, but assist North Korea's entry into the United Nations.

The Republic of Korea has also pointed to many problems inherent in the North Korean formula and has made realistic proposals towards the realization of the parallel membership of both Koreas, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Republic of Korea has proposed, inter alia, that:

(a) In seeking separate membership in the United Nations as an interim measure pending unification, both Koreas publicly pledge to work towards their reunification;

(b) After both Koreas have been admitted to the United Nations, they develop a special mode of co-operation, as they participate in the work of the United Nations, to facilitate and strengthen the process of unification.

In its sincere hope to make progress in the issue of Korea's membership in the United Nations, the Government of the Republic of Korea has endeavoured through all available opportunities and possible channels to persuade North Korea to join the United Nations together with the South.

Despite the exhaustive efforts of the Republic of Korea, however, North Korea has shown no sign of change in its adherence to the "single seat membership" formula.

Under these circumstances, the Republic of Korea is not hopeful about the prospects of any positive outcome from bilateral discussions on the issue of Korea's membership in the foreseeable future.

Though the Republic of Korea is open to any reasonable suggestions for realizing simultaneous membership and welcomes any discussions for this purpose, it sees little usefulness in further considering the North Korean formula.

While universal United Nations membership certainly contributes to the strengthening of international security in general, as emphasized in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, simultaneous membership of both Koreas in

particular will constitute a powerful confidence-building measure through the commitment of both parties to the Charter and will serve the best interests of all parties concerned, including the United Nations.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea earnestly hopes that North Korea will be soon forthcoming to the constructive proposal of the Republic of Korea.

However, in the case that North Korea is found to be unwilling or not yet ready to join the United Nations with the South, the Republic of Korea will exercise its sovereign right to seek United Nations membership independently, whenever the time is appropriate.

In response to the prevailing atmosphere of the world community in favour of its early admission, the Government of the Republic of Korea seeks the continued support of the Member States to ensure that Korea will be fully represented at the United Nations with the blessing of the entire United Nations membership during the course of next year.

