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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 23 January 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations was addressed to the President of the Security Council. In accordance with the request therein contained, the letter is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 23 January 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Observer Mission of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement dated 11 January 1986 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, aimed at easing the tension on the Korean peninsula.

I have further the honour to request you to arrange for the circulation of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI In Ho
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Observer
Democratic People's Republic
of Korea to the United Nations

Enclosure

Statement dated 11 January 1986 by the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

By the authorization of the Government the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issues the following statement:

Today, the relaxation of tension and prevention of the danger of war in the Korean peninsula and creation of a more favourable atmosphere for the dialogue between the north and the south pose themselves as a more and more pressing issue in expediting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Last year talks in different fields were held between north and south. It gladdened the Korean people suffering from the national division and stimulated the aspiration for the reunification throughout the country.

We consider that this year a greater stride should be made in easing the tension in Korea and promoting the dialogue between the north and the south.

In his New Year Address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung clarified that in order to solve the fundamental question relating to the peaceful reunification of Korea, it is imperative to hold the tripartite talks between our Republic, the United States and south Korea and press well ahead with the talks now under way between the north and the south and to open summit talks.

Now, the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world warmly welcome the new epoch-making proposal of our Party and the Government of the Republic, with great expectation that this year will witness a turning-point in the relaxation of the tense situation in the Korean peninsula and in dispelling the misunderstanding and mistrust and removing confrontation between the north and the south by bringing about good results in the dialogue.

If the north-south dialogues are to be successful, tension between the north and the south must be relaxed. To this end, both sides must, first of all, take immediate steps to refrain from large-scale military exercises directed against the other party to the dialogue.

As a part of the steps for détente in the Korean peninsula, we have already presented, through the Military Armistice Commission, the proposal for completely suspending the large-scale military exercises in Korea and, during the period of the dialogue, refraining from any kinds of military exercises.

However, the United States and south Korean authorities have not yet accepted these realistic proposals of ours.

Talking face to face while conducting military exercises against the other side is not appropriate to the occasion. It is clear to everybody that it will result in aggravating the tension, deepening the mutual mistrust and increasing the danger of war.

Last year, the United States and south Korean authorities conducted the large-scale joint military exercises code-named "Team Spirit 85", thus deadlocking for long the hard-won north-south dialogue and leading the situation astray.

If such a situation is created again, the tension in the Korean peninsula will never be eased and the disgraceful result of another rupture of north-south dialogue will be made.

We insist that there should be never created again such a situation where the dialogue between the north and the south is brought to rupture due to the insincere attitude of the United States and south Korean authorities and consider that it is imperative to create a more favourable environment for the dialogue and immediately take epoch-making steps to prevent the aggravation of tension.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as the important measure to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and create a decisively favourable environment for the dialogue between the north and the south, has decided to refrain from large-scale military exercise throughout the northern half of the Republic from 1 February 1986, and stop all military exercises during the period of the north-south dialogue.

Solemnly announcing this decision at home and abroad we propose to the United States Government and south Korean authorities that they announce in response to our initiative that they will not hold the military exercise in the whole area of south Korea from 1 February 1986 and put it into practice.

Military exercise, either open or confidential, is a threat to the other party to the dialogue, whether it is held on the Korean peninsula or in its vicinity.

We make it clear that we are always ready to respond to any negotiation, if the United States and south Korean side deem it necessary, on our proposal for the suspension of military rehearsals.

This proposal of ours to ease the tension in the Korean peninsula and create a favourable environment for the dialogue between the north and the south is a peace-loving one which is in full accord with the desire of the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world and reflects most correctly the reality of the Korean peninsula.

If this proposal is translated into practice, the relations between the north and the south of Korea will be improved markedly and an atmosphere of peace gradually created in the Korean peninsula.

The suspension of a large-scale military exercise against each other in the Korean peninsula will result in bringing about a positive change in the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America and in providing a good chance of dispelling mutual distrust and building confidence.

If the United States and the south Korean authorities really want to relax tension in the Korean peninsula, build mutual confidence, bring about reconciliation and make progress in the dialogue for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification they must accept this above-board and peace-loving proposal of ours.

This year is the International Year of Peace.

In this year of peace the peace-loving people of the world want to see an epochal turn in relaxing tensions in all parts of the world and in living peacefully without war and disputes.

The Korean peninsula is the place where the danger of a nuclear war is most intensely created in the world.

Only when the tension is removed and a durable peace ensured in the Korean peninsula can the peace-loving peoples of Asia and the rest of the world lead a peaceful life.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses its conviction that the Governments and peoples of the peace-loving countries of the world will give their deep attention to the situation prevailing in the Korean peninsula and actively support and help the definite realization of our epoch-making proposal on removing the danger of war in Korea and promoting well the north-south dialogue in a favourable atmosphere.

Pyongyang, 11 January 1986
