



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/17865
5 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 25 February 1986 from the Permanent Observer of the 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 25 February 1986 from the Permanent Observer of
the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council

With regard to the statement by the representative of the Soviet Union at the 2655th meeting of the Security Council, on 6 February 1986, concerning Korean Airlines flight No. 007 which was shot down by missiles fired from Soviet fighters on 31 August 1983, I have the honour to state the following:

1. We are indignant at the statement by the Soviet representative in which the Soviet Union once again attempted to deceive the world community and thus to evade their responsibilities for the destruction of Korean Airlines flight No. 007 with 269 innocent people on board by claiming falsely that the airliner deliberately and with premeditation deviated from its course to carry out a spy mission.
2. Despite their belated and reluctant admission of the downing, which was made only after the release of the tape recordings containing communications by the Soviet pilots, the Soviet Union has continued to allege the aircraft was on an espionage mission, while at the same time they harassed and obstructed the international search and rescue efforts and refused to co-operate with the fact-finding efforts of ICAO.
3. In September 1983, the ICAO Council reaffirmed that the use of armed force against civil aviation was incompatible with the norms governing international behaviour and the elementary considerations of humanity. Furthermore, the Council also reaffirmed that such use of force was incompatible with the rules, standards and recommended practices enshrined in the Chicago Convention and its annexes.
4. "Deeply deploring" the Soviet action, the Council also agreed that an urgent and impartial investigation of the Soviet downing of KAL flight No. 007 was necessary to determine the facts of the tragedy. Despite the great obstacles posed by the refusal of the Soviet Union to co-operate, the ICAO Secretary-General's final report (C-WP/7764 of 2 December 1983) has provided an impartial, meticulously researched explanation of what happened to KAL flight No. 007.
5. The ICAO Secretary-General's report, confirmed by a separate report of the Air Navigation Commission (ANC), has established that:
 - There was no evidence to indicate that the flight crew of KAL flight No. 007 was, at any time, aware of the flight's deviation from its planned route or that the pilot was ever aware of any Soviet effort to warn his aircraft;
 - The Soviet Union did not make significant efforts to identify the aircraft;
 - The aircraft was shot down by air-to-air missiles fired from the Soviet fighters.

6. Further, ANC substantiated the Secretary-General's conclusions that there was no evidence that KAL flight No. 007 was on an intelligence mission.

7. In the face of the loss of relevant evidence, because of the aircraft's destruction, compounded by Soviet non-co-operation in the investigation and harassment of search and rescue efforts, we may never know for certain why KAL flight No. 007 accidentally deviated from its planned flight route. However, it is clear from the ICAO reports that the deviation of the airliner was unintentional, and that the full responsibility for the tragedy of 31 August 1983 which shocked the entire world rests with the Soviet Union.

8. The world community is still entitled to expect the perpetrator of the KAL tragedy to meet its responsibility. The Soviet Union should remember that, although it was able to block the adoption of a resolution condemning the Soviet action in the Security Council through the exercise of its veto power, it cannot avoid the truth nor escape the judgement of history.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kwang-Soo CHOI
Ambassador

