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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 4 August 1987, 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.

Annex

Letter dated 4 August 1987 from the Permanent Observer 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 communiqué of 31 July 1987 of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed communiqué of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
Democratic People's Republic of
Korea to the United Nations

Enclosure

Communiqué of the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 23 July stated that it would unilaterally cut the armed forces of the Korean People's Army by 100,000 men in order to avert the danger of war on the Korean peninsula, promote the reunification of the country and open a breach for the practical reduction of armed forces.

The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army issued an order to the People's Army of all arms and services to discharge 100,000 officers and men by the end of December 1987 and send them to the post of Socialist construction.

It is by no means easy to make a determined decision unilaterally to cut in a brief period large armed forces 100,000-strong under the condition where we are standing in confrontation with the enemy equipped with modern weapons including nuclear weapons and incomparably superior to us in numerical strength.

The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army took a practical step with a firm will to realize universal and complete disarmament in actuality, not in words, and eliminate for ever the danger of the outbreak of another war in Korea and promote its peaceful reunification.

This is a clear manifestation of the peace-loving efforts of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proceeding from the principled stand that only when a military equilibrium is maintained by reducing armed forces, not by reinforcing them, and complete disarmament realized, can the acute military confrontation of today be removed from the Korean peninsula.

If the disarmament proposal as propounded in the statement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea materializes, the armed forces in the north and the south of Korea would be reduced to 100,000 men or less in 1992, the Korean peninsula would be free from foreign forces and foreign military bases and the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line would be converted into a complete peace corridor.

This would finally eradicate the root cause of another war on the Korean peninsula to bring durable and lasting peace and a bright prospect open on the road to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Furthermore, the realization of disarmament would help to direct a large sum of military spendings to peaceful construction and the promotion of people's well-being.

The whole Party, the whole country and the entire people will warmly welcome the discharged soldiers returning home according to the order of the Supreme Command, accord them social favour and pay particular attention to their work and life.

Today our Party calls all the Party members and working people to a grand general march to carry out the third seven-year plan.

The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army firmly believes that all demobilized soldiers will work miracles and effect innovations in the worth while endeavours to fulfil the third seven-year plan ahead of schedule.

The United States and the south Korean authorities must not use for their own purpose the gap caused by our unilateral arms reduction but approach with sincerity and show a positive reaction to the proposal of the Government of the Republic in conformity with the trend of the times.

The Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army stresses in the order that all the officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Security Forces and the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Red Young Guards should maintain higher revolutionary vigilance than ever before and firmly defend the post of the country.

All our workers, farmers, soldiers, youth and students, office workers and all other segments of people will unite rock-firm around the Party and the leader and defend the Socialist fatherland and the gains of the revolution as firm as an impregnable fortress and perform heroic feats in Socialist construction for the development and prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people.

Pyongyang, 31 July 1987
