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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 7 August 1987, 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 7 August 1987 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 the text of the statement of 3 August 1987 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

I have further the honour to request that this letter and the enclosed statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Keun PARK
Ambassador

Enclosure

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic
of Korea on 3 August 1987

The Government of the Republic of Korea has exerted every possible effort to reduce tension on the Korean peninsula and fulfil the aspiration of the entire Korean people for peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiation in the spirit of national reconciliation, and such an effort will continue in the future.

We believe that to settle the Korean issues through talks between the parties directly concerned, South and North Korea, on the basis of the principle of national self-determination is the most appropriate approach reflecting the ardent national aspirations of the Korean people.

The issue of peace and reunification is basically a problem to be settled by the Korean people themselves, as they are the masters of their own country.

Accordingly, if North Korea is truly interested in improving relations and relaxing tension between the South and the North, it must first show sincerity in confidence-building which is the basis for the consolidation of peace.

In the meantime, we had the Red Cross talks, the economic talks and preliminary contacts for parliamentary talks in order to reduce tension and restore trust between the South and the North. In the autumn of 1985, we also had a touching moment of shedding tears over the reunion of members of separated families when they exchanged the home-town visiting groups for the first time in the 40 years of division.

Furthermore, the Red Cross talks and the economic talks have reached such a stage that concrete projects could have been implemented with only modest concessions and co-operation from both sides.

However, North Korea suspended unilaterally all channels of dialogue in January 1986 under the pretext of the Team Spirit exercise and put forward the so-called three-way military authorities talks and politico-military talks. Furthermore, North Korea recently made a proposal to hold armed forces reduction negotiations in Geneva among the three parties, including the United States. Such a proposal runs counter to the principle of self-determination which calls for the settlement of the pending problems by the parties directly concerned, South and North Korea.

It is to be re-emphasized that the most practical approach to the solution of the pending problems between South and North Korea lies in strengthening the foundation for mutual trust by convening water resources talks at an early date while resuming and facilitating the Red Cross and economic talks that the North Korean side has unilaterally suspended.

Talks on armed forces reduction can bear concrete results only when confidence is restored and peace consolidated through exchanges and co-operation between the South and the North on the basis of arrangements for maintaining peace and security such as both Koreas' entry into the United Nations and cross-recognition by the four neighbouring Powers.

Under the present circumstances, as far as the issue of armed forces reduction between South and North Korea is concerned, it is important to make the arrangements for maintaining peace and security as well as avoiding military conflicts.

It is in this perspective that we propose to hold talks between the Foreign Ministers of South and North Korea in order to discuss such issues as the conclusion of a non-aggression agreement, United Nations membership, cross-recognition and other matters.

In this meeting, all matters of each other's concern may be discussed, comprising confidence-building measures such as resumption and progress of the suspended dialogue, consultations and settlement of the water resources problem; various issues including armed forces reduction to relax tension and establish peace on the Korean peninsula; and the issue of bringing about successful South-North Prime Ministers' talks and of realizing eventually a meeting between the highest authorities of the South and the North.

It is desirable that the Foreign Ministers' talks be held either in New York during the period between the opening of the United Nations General Assembly session and the end of September this year when the Foreign Ministers of South and North Korea will be visiting the United Nations or in any other mutually agreeable place during the same period.

We expect North Korea to respond positively to our proposal in full appreciation of our genuine desire for restoring trust and improving relations between the South and the North.

