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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 7 January 1988, 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 contained in it, I am circulating the letter as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 7 January 1988 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 New Year Address for 1988 (part of national reunification) of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In his New Year Address President Kim Il Sung made clear the principled position of the Government of our Republic regarding peace and peaceful reunification of the country and proposed to convene a north-south joint conference attended by persons in authority of the north and the south and the representatives of all political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings.

The proposal for convening the north-south joint conference is a most reasonable and realistic one for national salvation, in view of the correctness of its purpose and the nature of the problems of the day.

In order to turn the relations between the north and the south into those of reconciliation and unity from those of antagonism and confrontation, outstanding issues in the north and the south such as the problems of discontinuing "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and other large-scale military exercises for the present and of convening multinational disarmament talks, of jointly hosting the twenty-fourth olympic games and of ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders against each other should be solved without delay. These problems can be solved correctly only when the will of the authorities, political parties, social organizations and individual personages of the north and the south are brought together, as they are not related to the interests of the authorities of both sides or a specific political party only but related to the common interests of the whole nation.

The north-south joint conference will make it possible to open a new phase in breaking the deadlock between the north and the south and promoting peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed New Year Address (part of national reunification), be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHANG Yong Chol
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Observer
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations

Enclosure

Text of the new proposal on the national reunification out of the
New Year Address for 1988 of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung,
President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The year 1987 was a year when the struggle for peace and the peaceful national reunification was intensive in the north and the south of our country.

In order to ease the tension in Korea and to create a phase favourable for the peaceful reunification, our Party and the Government of the Republic, true to the noble ideas of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, proposed high-level political and military talks between north and south. Last year we made a proposal for phased disarmament and a five-point proposal for national unity, and worked hard to implement them.

Throughout last year the people from all walks of life in south Korea fought determinedly to end the military fascist dictatorship which had lasted for almost 30 years under the aegis of the United States and to win social democracy and independence as well as peaceful national reunification.

In these days of heroic struggles ranging from the struggle against the fascist "April 13 measure" to the June popular resistance, the workers' struggle from July to September and the struggle in December for the termination of military rule, the south Korean people fully demonstrated their strong desire for independence, democracy and reunification and their indefatigable fighting spirit and dealt a heavy blow to the military dictatorship which is backed by the United States. In particular, in the "presidential election" held recently in south Korea 12 million people, far exceeding the majority of voters, clearly expressed their will rejecting prolonged military rule and demanding a civilian government, and showed that no one could ignore this powerful fighting force.

I extend high respect to the people of all sections, particularly the workers, peasants, young people, students and intellectuals and to the patriotic democrats in south Korea who recorded a glorious page in their history of the liberation struggle by their courageous anti-United States, anti-fascist struggle in defiance of the harsh military fascist system.

In spite of the desire of the overwhelming majority of the people to abolish military rule and establish civilian government, the military fascist dictatorship is still reigning over the people in south Korea, and what they call a "change of régime" will give them no hope and expectations whatsoever. Experience proves once again that, so long as colonial rule by the United States over south Korea continues, the people's demand for democracy and their desire for social change will not be met. The south Korean people must draw a lesson from this state of affairs. In order to shape their own destiny by their united struggle, they must press on with the cause of anti-fascist democracy and of national reunification, putting forward the slogan of anti-United States independence.

Today, the most pressing task of all the Korean people is to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The ardent desire of the whole nation for the country's reunification is irresistible, and the just policy and sincere efforts of our Party and the Government of our Republic to reunify the country enjoy stronger support and sympathy of the peoples at home and abroad than ever before.

The international situation as a whole shows a sign of gradual relaxation, and the voice of the world peace-loving people who wish the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is growing louder with each passing day.

The degree of accelerating the country's reunification depends entirely on joint efforts made by the north and the south, the direct parties to the question of reunification.

If the country is to be reunified independently and peacefully, it is most urgent that the north and the south have an attitude and willingness to become reconciled and united with each other.

By nature, the question of national reunification is not a matter of who will conquer whom or who will be conquered, nor is it a question of one side overpowering and winning supremacy over the other. It is a question of achieving unity between the north and the south, which make up one nation of the same stock. As historical experience shows, if both sides distrust each other in confrontation and seek division, no success will be expected even though they hold frequent talks, and worse still, if they aim to win by the use of strength the question of reunification will never be settled.

The north-south confrontation and division only give foreign forces a chance to fish in troubled waters. Playing into their hands, our nation has suffered unbearable disasters and misfortunes for more than 40 years. In order to end this disgraceful history and defend national interests, both sides, one and the same nation, must not attempt at a competition but be willing to become reconciled and united and make joint efforts to reunify the country.

Another pressing prerequisite for national reunification is to discontinue military confrontation between the north and the south and to ease the tension.

As we have stated more than once, military confrontation is a factor in misunderstanding and distrust. For the fellow countrymen to trust and become reconciled with each other, they must first throw away the daggers hidden in their breast pockets.

Even though it is difficult to reunify the country right now, we must seek a way to a peaceful life, instead of pitting large armies against each other and retaining the factor that may trigger off a war and bring about national calamities.

We must be ready to remove the military confrontation and eliminate the danger of war in every way possible, and make a bold decision to adopt a non-aggression

declaration, a sure guarantee that the north and the south will refrain from attacking each other.

The implementation of this declaration can be guaranteed by increasing the authority and functions of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission of the present Military Armistice Commission and by organizing a Neutral Nations Inspection Force.

Promoting national reconciliation and unity and easing the tension at present are the minimum requirement of principle for holding north-south talks and settling the reunification question.

We believe that we shall be able to co-operate for national reunification with anyone who takes this principled attitude. If they show such a sincere attitude, we will meet and converse at any time not only with the people from all walks of life, political parties, organizations and people of different opposition groups, but also with the south Korean rulers, unless this is contrary to the people's will, and we will meet everyone individually or collectively to exchange opinions without reserve.

At present many people show deep apprehension, saying that, from the point of view of both the situation in south Korea and the north-south relations, 1988 will be a most strained and complex year.

This year we must turn the situation on the Korean peninsula, the focus of the world's attention, decisively in favour of peace and peaceful reunification of our country.

Out of this desire, we insist that the problems of discontinuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, and other large-scale war games from this year onwards, of arranging multinational disarmament talks, of hosting the twenty-fourth olympic games jointly by north and south, and of ceasing to hurl abuses and slanders against each other, must be discussed and settled without delay.

By resolving these problems of the day, the north and the south will make this year a historic year that will provide the opportunity for a new change for national reconciliation and unity. For this purpose, we propose to convene a north-south joint conference attended by persons in authority of both sides and the representatives of all the political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings. This meeting will make it possible to open a new phase in breaking the deadlock between north and south and promoting peace and peaceful reunification of the country, the burning desire of the whole nation.

For the fundamental settlement of the question of the reunification of our country, the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States must be settled.

The United States continues its military occupation of south Korea, still avoiding the proposed tripartite talks. This shows that they have no intention of settling even the regional issue, still less preserving world peace.

Speaking from the point of view of a fair deal, the United States is not at all justified in having brought nuclear weapons to south Korea and made it a nuclear base in confrontation with us, who possess no nuclear arms. If these nuclear weapons are aimed at another socialist country, they ought to withdraw them from south Korea now that they have concluded a nuclear disarmament treaty with the Soviet Union. The United States must conclude a peace agreement with us, remove as soon as possible the traces of the past which were undesirable to both sides, and open a new chapter in the annals of the Korea-United States relationship in keeping with the current trend towards peace.

We consider it the most reasonable settlement of the question of our country's reunification to establish a single confederal state, neutral and non-aligned, on the basis of the north and the south recognizing each other's existence.

For the independent and peaceful reunification of their country, all the Koreans living in the north, in the south and overseas must participate as one in the accomplishment of the sacred cause of the nation.

