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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 23 March 1988 from the Permanent Observer 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 March 1988 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 statement of 23 March 1988 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

Enclosure

Statement of 23 March 1988 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The "Team Spirit 88" joint military manoeuvres launched by the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique throughout south Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, defying the strong public denunciation at home and abroad, have entered into full-dress stage.

Involved in this provocative war rehearsal are large armed forces more than 200,000 strong including 60,000 United States imperialist aggression troops and E-3A AWACS, B 52 strategic bombers, F-16 and F-15 fighter bombers carrying nuclear weapons and many other planes and tanks, missiles and a carrier flotilla and various other types of sophisticated operational equipment and mass destruction weapons from the United States mainland and United States military bases on Guam, Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines.

During the several month-long war exercises the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique will reportedly stage a big combined "landing operation", a "river crossing operation", an "airlifting operation", a "firing exercise", a "missile launching exercise", etc. and even a "special operation" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Due to these reckless war manoeuvres, the situation in Korea is now growing extremely tense and the dark cloud of a nuclear war is heavily hanging over our land.

The United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique are staging "Team Spirit 88" at a time when the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward reasonable nation-saving proposals for easing tensions on the Korean peninsula and achieving peace and peaceful reunification. This clearly tells that they are bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people vehemently denounce the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal of the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique, deadset against peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification, as a heinous criminal act intended to impose a horrible nuclear disaster upon our people and as a grave menace to peace in Asia and the world.

"Team Spirit 88" is an out-and-out aggressive preliminary war and a test nuclear war in view of the scale of the armed forces involved and standard of their equipment, the duration of the exercises and their nature and timing.

Vast armed forces of both sides are standing in acute confrontation along the military demarcation line that divides the Korean peninsula today, and south Korea has turned into the largest nuclear arsenal in the Far East.

In this situation who on earth can assert that the reckless play with fire by the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppets will not develop to be an all-out thermonuclear war? There is no way that they can cover up the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit 88".

The Government of our Republic has stated more than once that it has no intention to "invade south".

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

In keeping with the expectation and the desire of the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in recent years alone put forward one proposal after another for détente, including the proposal for discontinuing the arms build-up and arms race and reducing the armed forces of the north and the south each to 100,000 men or less, the proposal for concluding a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and adopting a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south, the proposal for converting the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone and the proposal for discontinuing large-scale military exercises.

It advanced the proposal for a drastic phased arms reduction in July last year, and in particular, it made efforts in every way for its realization and unilaterally cut its armed forces by 100,000 men.

This year our Republic, with a view to easing the tension on the Korean peninsula and bringing about a new turning-point in national reconciliation and unity, put forward the epoch-making proposal for convening a north-south joint conference aimed at discussing and settling such urgent matters as discontinuing the "Team Spirit" and other large-scale military exercises and holding multinational disarmament talks.

These proposals of ours have met with the broad support and sympathy of the entire Korean people and the world public for their validity and reasonableness.

But, the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique turned down all our fair and above-board proposals and answered them with premeditated aggravation of the tension from the beginning of the year and with the "Team Spirit 88" joint military manoeuvres.

Moreover, the United States imperialists are massing a huge amount of weapons and military hardware including aircraft carriers in south Korea and its surrounding waters and will reportedly replace the old military hardware with the ammunition and war supplies they have introduced for the current military exercises or transfer them to the south Korean puppets under the pretext of "ensuring the security of the Olympic Games".

The "threat from the north" and "security of the Olympic games" advertized by the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppets are nothing but a trick to justify their arms build-up and nuclear war moves, divert elsewhere people's attention from the anti-American, anti-fascist struggle for democracy mounting high in south Korea and find a pretext for the provocation of another war of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is by no means fortuitous that the south Korean students and other people are energetically waging the anti-American, anti-"Government" struggle to gain democracy and national sovereignty.

The United States imperialists and the south Korean military fascist clique must look straight at the trend of the times and act with discretion.

If they think they can find a way out of the serious crisis of the tottering colonial military fascist ruling system in the aggravation of the tension and the provocation of another war of aggression, it is a gross miscalculation.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people will never pardon the reckless war provocation moves of the United States imperialist aggressors and the south Korean puppet clique.

Having received the order of the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, the officers and men of our People's Army and People's Security Forces and the members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guard and the Red Young Guard are keenly watching every movement of the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique. Should the enemy dare to attack them, they would retaliate against him a hundred, a thousand times.

Our people oppose war and love peace but will never beg for it.

Clearly mindful that with no move can they ever dampen the unanimous desire and aspiration of our people who are all out in the just cause, the United States imperialists must immediately stop the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises they are staging under an untenable pretext and withdraw from south Korea at an early date, taking along nuclear weapons and all other lethal weapons.

The south Korean military fascist clique should halt the treacherous act aimed at imposing a nuclear holocaust upon fellow countrymen, clinging to the coat-tail of their master.

If the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique continue military exercises and arms build-up in defiance of our earnest assertion, it will only betray the fact that they are increasing the danger of war on the Korean peninsula with an axe to grind.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people express the firm belief that all the peace-loving Governments and peoples of the world will approach with high vigilance the vicious moves of the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique to abuse the sacred

Olympic Games for their "two Koreas" plot and war policy and the criminal "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises and lift up voices of justice denouncing them.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people will check and frustrate the moves of the United States imperialists and south Korean puppets to provoke another war on the Korean peninsula and firmly defend peace in Asia and the world and make patient efforts to achieve the peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

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