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THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOREA:

REPORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

AND THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Selim SARPER (Turkey)

1. At its 112th plenary meeting held on 14 November 1947, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions (112 (II), A and B) on the problem of the independence of Korea, and established a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea.
2. In accordance with its terms of reference as provided in the General Assembly's resolutions, the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea submitted a report to the General Assembly (A/575, A/575/Add. 1 to 4).
3. As a consequence of the negative results of approaches by the Temporary Commission to the military authorities in North Korea and to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, for the purpose of obtaining the co-operation of the military authorities in North Korea, the Temporary Commission decided, on 6 February 1948, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 112 II, B, to consult with the Interim Committee of the General Assembly with respect to the application of that resolution in the light of developments.
4. The Interim Committee submitted a report to the General Assembly on the above consultations by the Temporary Commission (A/583).
5. At its 142nd plenary meeting, held on 24 September 1948, the General Assembly decided to refer this question to the First Committee for consideration and report.
6. The First Committee considered the question at its 200th and at its 230th to 236th meetings inclusive.
7. At the 200th meeting, on 15 November 1948, the Committee rejected a proposal by the representative of Czechoslovakia that it should, at that time, consider his draft resolution (A/C.1/367) proposing that the delegation of the Korean People's Democratic Republic should be invited to participate in the discussion on this question. After further debate at the 229th and 230th
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meetings on 6 December 1948, the Committee rejected the Czechoslovak draft resolution by 34 votes to 6, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland.

Against: Siam, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, India, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines.

Abstaining: Sweden, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Afghanistan, Burma, Iran, Iraq.

8. At the 230th meeting, by 39 votes to 6, with 1 abstention, the Committee adopted a Chinese draft resolution (A/C.1/395) inviting the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Korea, under the Chairmanship of Dr. John M. Chang, to participate, without the right to vote, in the Committee's debate on this question. It was also agreed, without objection, to invite the Rapporteur of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea to present its report.

9. The Committee held its general debate on the question at its 231st to 235th meetings inclusive, and the following draft resolutions were submitted:

(a) A joint draft resolution proposed by Australia, China and the United States of America (A/C.1/426) which, inter alia, approved the conclusions of the reports of the Temporary Commission and established a new Commission on Korea.

(b) A draft resolution proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, (A/C.1/427/Corr.1) which, inter alia, resolved that the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea should be abolished.

10. At the 236th meeting, on 8 December 1948, these two draft resolutions were put to the vote with the following results:

(a) The joint draft resolution of Australia, China and the United States of America was adopted by 41 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.

(b) By a vote of 41 to none, with 1 abstention, the Committee adopted a proposal by the representative of the United States of America to insert the words "the same Member States which composed the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea" to complete the introductory sentence

of the fourth operative paragraph of the joint draft resolution of Australia, China and the United States of America. The representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Yugoslavia did not take part in the vote, and the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic stated that his Government would not take part in any activities of the Commission provided for in the draft resolution.

(c) The draft resolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was rejected by 42 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.

11. The First Committee recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolutions:

THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOREA

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING REGARD to its resolution 112 (II) of 14 November 1947 concerning the problem of the independence of Korea,

HAVING CONSIDERED the report of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (hereinafter referred to as the "Temporary Commission"), and the report of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly regarding its consultation with the Temporary Commission,

MINDEFUL of the fact that, due to difficulties referred to in the report of the Temporary Commission, the objectives set forth in the resolution of 14 November 1947 have not been fully accomplished, and in particular that unification of Korea has not yet been achieved,

1. APPROVES the conclusions of the reports of the Temporary Commission;

2. DECLARES that there has been established a lawful government (the Government of the Republic of Korea) having effective control and jurisdiction over that part of Korea where the Temporary Commission was able to observe and consult and in which the great majority of the people of all Korea reside; that this Government is based on elections which were a valid expression of the free will of the electorate of that part of Korea and which were observed by the Temporary Commission; and that this is the only such Government in Korea;

3. RECOMMENDS that the occupying Powers should withdraw their occupation forces from Korea as early as practicable;

4. RESOLVES that, as a means to the full accomplishment of the objectives set forth in the resolution of 14 November 1947, a Commission on Korea, consisting of the same Member States which composed the United

Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, should be established to continue the work of the Temporary Commission and carry out the provisions of the present resolution, having in mind the status of the Government of the Republic of Korea as herein defined, and in particular to:

- (a) Lend its good offices to bring about the unification of Korea and the integration of all Korean security forces in accordance with the principles laid down by the General Assembly in the resolution of 14 November 1947;
- (b) Seek to facilitate the removal of barriers to economic, social and other friendly intercourse caused by the division of Korea;
- (c) Be available for observation and consultation in the further development of representative government based on the freely expressed will of the people;
- (d) Observe the actual withdrawal of the occupying forces and verify the fact of withdrawal when such has occurred: and for this purpose, if it so desires, request the assistance of military experts of the two occupying Powers;

5. DECIDES that the Commission:

- (a) Shall within thirty days of the adoption of the present resolution, proceed to Korea, where it shall maintain its seat;
- (b) Shall be regarded as having superseded the Temporary Commission established by the resolution of 14 November 1947;
- (c) Is authorized to travel, consult and observe throughout Korea;
- (d) Shall determine its own procedures;
- (e) May consult with the Interim Committee with respect to the discharge of its duties in the light of developments, and within the terms of the present resolution;
- (f) Shall render a report to the next regular session of the General Assembly and to any prior special session which might be called to consider the subject matter of the present resolution, and shall render such interim reports as it may deem appropriate to the Secretary-General for distribution to Members;

6. REQUESTS that the Secretary-General should provide the Commission with adequate staff and facilities, including technical advisers as required; and authorizes the Secretary-General to pay the expenses and per diem of a representative and an alternate from each of the States members of the Commission;

7. CALLS UPON the Member States concerned, the Government of the Republic of Korea, and all Koreans to afford every assistance and

facility to the Commission in the fulfilment of its responsibilities;

8. CALLS UPON Member States to refrain from any acts derogatory to the results achieved and to be achieved by the United Nations in bringing about the complete independence and unity of Korea;

9. RECOMMENDS that Member States and other nations, in establishing their relations with the Government of the Republic of Korea, take into consideration the facts set out in paragraph 2 of the present resolution.
