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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 11 February 1983 from the Permanent Observer of the 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 11 February 1983 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 refer to document S/15602 dated 9 February 1983 which contains the communique of the North Korea Army Supreme Command on Team Spirit 83, an annual military exercise in the Republic of Korea.

I should like to bring to your kind attention the following, which proves that the North Korean allegations in the communique are nothing but deliberate attempts to aggravate the situation in the Korean peninsula by making groundless charges against the Republic of Korea.

1. The Team Spirit military exercise has taken place annually since 1976 to ensure defensive preparedness of the Republic of Korea Armed Forces against another possible North Korean aggression on the South.

2. The United Nations Command notified the North Korean side at the Korean Military Armistice Commission on 15 December 1982 of the scope and duration of Team Spirit 83 which would take place from February to April 1983.

3. Furthermore, at the 416th meeting of the Korean Military Armistice Commission held in Panmunjom on 3 February 1983, the United Nations Command extended, as before, an invitation to the North Korean side to send its observers to the South for the purpose of observing Team Spirit 83 so that they may confirm the defensive nature of the exercise. The North Korean authorities, however, instantly rejected the invitation.

It may also be recalled that North Korea rejected a proposal for confidence-building measures made by the United Nations Command on 23 January 1982. The proposal calls for, among other things, advance notification and mutual observation of military exercises by both sides. North Korea has conducted a series of massive military exercises in the past and most recently in December 1982 without prior notification.

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In view of the above, it is self-evident that North Korea is grossly distorting the facts, when she blames the defensive military exercise in the Republic of Korea for contributing to the tensions on the peninsula. On the contrary, it is the North Korean decision to place its entire armed forces and civilian population in a semi-war state that is exacerbating the situation on the Korean peninsula.

I have the honour to request this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Kyung-Won KIM
Ambassador
