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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 7 July 1983 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 7 July 1983 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 refer to the letter of 25 April 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15728).

The "report" of the so-called "United Nations Command" in south Korea and its appendix attached to the letter of the United States representative are replete with distortions and fabrications.

1. It is none other than the United States which aggravates the tensions in the Korean peninsula and violates the Korean Military Armistice Agreement.

Provocative military exercises which are aimed at completing nuclear war preparations in the Korean peninsula and intimidating by force the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are being ceaselessly staged.

To cite a few such provocative acts:

A large-scale joint military exercise of the United States and south Korea, called "Team Spirit 82", was conducted from 13 February to 26 April 1982.

A force 161,600 strong participated in that military exercise, including 61,600 United States troops from the United States mainland, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines and Japan.

In particular, more than 50 destroyers, cruisers and submarines were mobilized, including the Midway nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the United States Seventh Fleet, capable of loading 65,000 tons of tactical nuclear weapons and F-16 fighter bombers and B-52 strategic air bombers.

From 1 February to the middle of April 1983, a joint military exercise of the United States and south Korea, code-named "Team Spirit 83", the largest in scale in history, was staged, details of which are contained in my letter addressed to the President of the Security Council on 8 February 1983 (S/15602).

The United States has continually been committing air reconnaissance and other hostile acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

During the whole of 1982, the United States carried out 180-odd intrusions into the territorial airspace of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, using high-speed, high-altitude SR-71 reconnaissance planes for espionage purposes.

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The United States has continued to commit violations of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement by introducing automatic and heavy weapons, and other prohibited equipment into the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The number of such violations amounted to 10,000 in 1982.

The United States also committed more than 1,040 acts of provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea inside the DMZ in 1982.

The United States continues to reinforce its armed forces occupying south Korea. The numerical strength of the United States army in south Korea was 41,079 as of March 1983, or a reinforcement of 2,079 additional troops as compared to September 1982.

The United States has placed in the posture of real war an electronic espionage battalion, composed of 600 army personnel and a close air support wing of 19 A-10 planes, with a view to increasing its "capability of information collection" and its "ground attack capability" against the northern half of the Republic, in accordance with its "combat power build-up program".

The United States has shipped into south Korea 36 F-16 fighter bombers and replaced 16 OV-10 planes at Osan Air Force Base with OA-37 planes.

The reinforcement of armed forces in south Korea by the United States is in flagrant violation of article 2, paragraph 13 (b) and (c) of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement prohibiting the reinforcement of military personnel or the introduction of the combat aircraft, armoured vehicles, weapons or ammunition into Korea.

There were more than 23,200 violations of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement by the United States during 1982.

2. The "report" of the so-called "United Nations Command" alleged that the proposal made by our side in the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from south Korea and the replacement of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is outside the purview of the work of MAC.

Article 4, paragraph 60, of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement provides for the parties "to settle through negotiation the questions of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question etc."

The Armistice Agreement is literally an agreement merely to stop the fighting.

It is an unavoidable task for MAC to discuss in its meetings the question of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea and the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement to achieve a lasting peace in Korea under the provisions of article 4 of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

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3. The "report" of the so-called "United Nations Command" slandered the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in respect of the question of the political asylum of Pfc. Joseph T. White.

Concerning the case of Pfc. White, my Government accepted only on humanitarian grounds his request for political asylum in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It can be decided only by Pfc. White, himself, to arrange any meeting and, telephone contact with anyone. Nobody can interfere in his personal life, and furthermore, it is totally outside the purview of the work of MAC to discuss his problem in its forum.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) HAN Si Hae
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Observer of the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea
to the United Nations
