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Security Council

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 1 September 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 1 September 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 bring to your urgent attention the tragic incident in which a commercial passenger plane of the Republic of Korea was shot down by fighter planes of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at about 1830 hours, Greenwich Mean Time, on 31 August 1983.

The Boeing 747 flight 007, one of five regular weekly flights of Korean Airlines between Seoul and New York, was en route from New York to Seoul, after refueling in Anchorage, Alaska. There were two hundred and forty civilian passengers of different nationalities and twenty-nine crew members on board.

Condemning most strongly this unprovoked barbaric act committed by the Soviet Union in blatant violation of basic norms of international law and practice in international civil aviation, and gravely concerned by the situation arising from this incident, I request you to call an urgent meeting of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 35 of the United Nations Charter, to consider immediately this serious matter.

In this connection, I declare, on behalf of my Government, that the Republic of Korea accepts, as it has always done so, the obligation of pacific settlement as provided for in the present Charter.

I also request that the representative of the Government of the Republic of Korea be invited by the Security Council to participate in the discussion relating to this matter in accordance with Article 32 of the Charter.