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GENERAL

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NOTE DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 1951 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED ON 28 AND 29 AUGUST 1951, AND RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, RELATING TO THE CEASE-FIRE NEGOTIATIONS AT KAESONG

The Representative of the United States to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to Paragraph 6 of the Resolution of the Security Council of July 7, 1950, requesting the United States to provide the Security Council with reports, as appropriate, on the course of action taken under the United Nations Command.

In compliance with this Resolution, there are enclosed herewith, for circulation to members of the Security Council and to the other Members of the United Nations, the following documents:

1. Text of a Message to Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway from Communist Leaders Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-Huai on the Alleged Bombing of Kaesong, Press Version, Tokyo, August 28, 1951
2. Gen. Ridgway's message to Generals Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-Huai, August 29, 1951, Korean time

The Representative of the United States has the honor to advise further that these documents are being transmitted to the Chairman of the Good Offices Committee and that the United States Government will keep the Secretary-General informed of developments in this matter.

TEXT OF A MESSAGE TO GENERAL MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY
FROM COMMUNIST LEADERS KIM IL SUNG AND
PENG TEH-HUAI ON THE ALLEGED BOMBING
OF KAESONG

PRESS VERSION, TOKYO, AUGUST 28, 1951

General Ridgway:

Your reply date the 25th has been received.

In this letter you not only deny the serious, provocative, illegal penetration by a plane of your side over the Kaesong neutral zone on the night of August 22 which carried out bombing and strafing with the residence of our delegation as its target, but you also unreasonably refused to settle this matter carefully and responsibly.

Moreover, you uttered the malicious slander that this incident was manufactured by our side, thus attempting to evade the heavy responsibility for this incident which should be borne by your side.

We regard this reply of yours as entirely unsatisfactory.

Since the Kaesong armistice negotiations began, in settling any event arising from the violation by either side of the Kaesong neutral zone agreement, our side has always adopted a careful and responsible attitude on the principle of equality in order that the negotiations may go ahead smoothly.

The entire record on these questions during the Kaesong negotiations unshakeably bears out this point.

The full text of the documents and messages that have passed between both sides on these questions have been published by our side so that people may know the entire truth of the event.

What, however, is the position of your side?

On all questions of breaches and violations of the Kaesong neutral zone agreement by your side you have either denied or failed to settle them when our side has called your attention to them or lodged protests with your side.

Even after the incident of August 19, when armed men of your side illegally entered the Kaesong neutral zone and attacked our military patrol, Vice Admiral Joy (Chief United Nations Truce Negotiator) still issued a denial stating that it was a voluntary action by the so-called citizens of the Republic of Korea within our area, and that your side was not responsible for it despite the fact that investigations were carried out on the spot by liaison officers of both sides and local inhabitants testified that it was an ambush staged by marauding South Korean troops in uniform.

But you state in your latest reply that this was a malicious falsehood totally without foundation in fact.

Are you not aware that General Joy (sic) admitted the fact that the ambush on August 23 in his reply to our General Nam Il? (The communist message was garbled at this point).

One may ask whether the South Korean troops can be excluded from the United Nations forces and if so what is the job of the South Korean (cease-fire) delegate, General Paik Sun Yup of the United Nations delegation?

What is the basic difference between the so-called citizens of the Republic of Korea, who force their way into the neutral zone, wear uniforms and carry arms, and South Korean troops?

If the headquarters of the United Nations troops cannot control and bear responsibility for these South Korean troops, then how can your delegation, which represents all United Nations forces, including the South Korean forces, conduct armistice negotiations?

This type of fact-twisting, peremptory denial, reversal of the truth and self-contradicting by your side reached its highest peak in the incident on the night of August 22. At the very outset of your reply you make this slanderous assertion that this incident was manufactured by our side and does not in its own right merit a reply.

This arbitrary attitude of yours is in itself enough to prove that this incident was premeditated by your side because only so would you adopt the policy of blank refusal and slander to evade your grave and inescapable responsibility in face of the iron facts.

Thus, it is not surprising that your Liaison Officers when they first heard of the incident found pretext for refusing to come to Kaesong to investigate, and when they eventually came on the scene, they expressed the opinion that the craters of the bombing and bomb splinters were not worth looking at, and they wanted to investigate again in daylight, claiming that it was not convenient to investigate in the dark.

However, on August 23 Admiral Joy, your Chief Delegate, tried to forestall us with a report denying all the facts making the fabrication (and) slander. Moreover, your Liaison Officer did not come to investigate but on the contrary repeatedly alleged that our side refused to allow reinvestigation.

Is it not clear that all this results from the fact that there was premeditation on your side in regard to the incident and that after it occurred, your side hurriedly tried to evade and deny responsibility, fearing to face reality?

Facts speak louder than eloquence.

Your side's aircraft intruded into the Kaesong neutral zone, bombed and strafed. Although disregarding the fact, you allege in your reply that it is a malicious falsehood, totally without foundation in fact. The fragments of the bombs dropped by your plane and the crater, the blasted rocks, the scorched earth - are all still as they were near the residence of our Delegation in the Kaesong neutral area. And the citizens of the Kaesong area can also testify to the actual facts of the bombing and strafing by your plane.

Unless your side is determined to break up negotiations and prohibit your Delegation and Liaison Officers and even press correspondents from coming to Kaesong how can you evade the test of reality?

As far as our side is concerned we did not on the night of 22d reject your making a re-investigation in daylight. We are still waiting for your side to do so.

If one sticks to the facts of the actual spot of the bombed area in Kaesong, it becomes obvious who manufactured this provocative incident and who is arbitrarily telling absurd lies in face of the facts.

Moreover, even according to the distortions of facts in the report of your Liaison Officers that Joy of your side has already published, your side can not deny the bomb fragments and other evidences of bombing which your own Liaison Officers saw with their own eyes were wrought by aircraft bombing.

And a radar report by your 5th Air Force has well testified that an aircraft appeared West of Kaesong at 9:30 P.M. August 22. Of course, it is

difficult to identify an aircraft picked up by radar. But on what grounds were Joy and the Liaison Officers of your side able to allege arbitrarily that it was not an aircraft of the United Nations forces but our aircraft that attempted the murder of our Delegation? Such are the astonishing and absurd lengths to which denials and slanders have reached.

In your reply you also alleged that the other incidents were either fabricated by our side or were actions of irregular troops without the slightest connection overtly or covertly with your side. But if the South Korean troops in the August 19 incident were not directly connected with the United Nations Command can you deny that they were connected overtly or covertly with the Headquarters of the South Korean troops?

Is it possible that the aircraft of the night of August 22 was also an irregular aircraft of South Korea?

When the aircraft of the United Nations forces illegally flew over the Kaesong neutral zone and bombed and strafed the area, your side committed an act of provocation which cannot be thrust aside.

And your attitude regarding the affairs is such a distortion of the facts, such a denial of the truth, such a confusion of right and wrong and such a self-contradiction that it is very hard to make people believe that your aim is not one of manufacturing incidents and undermining the negotiations while at the same time avoiding the responsibility for breaking off the negotiations. But the responsibility will never fall upon us because our attitude has always been realistic, fair and reasonable so as to guarantee the carrying on of the armistice negotiations.

Only when your military aircraft violated the neutral zone with our delegation as its target attempting to murder them was our delegation compelled to suspend the meetings and wait for your side to take responsible action about the incident.

We hereby once more propose to you that this great act of provocation should be dealt with by your side with an attitude of serious responsibility. Then the continuation of the negotiations for a just and reasonable armistice agreement can be guaranteed.

At the same time we demand that you order your liaison officers to proceed to Kaesong to carry out a re-investigation jointly with our liaison officers of the incident that occurred on the night of August 22 when your military aircraft bombed and strafed the vicinity of the residence of our delegation in order once again to prove the full validity of our protest.

In order to enable people throughout the world to understand the full and true picture of the incident we demand that the full text of the communications exchanged between both sides be made public following the example of our side, and that your news agencies and press elsewhere shall be permitted to release and publish them in full.

We await

We await your reply.

The message was signed:

"Kim Il Sung, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army."
"Peng Teh-Huai, Commander of the Chinese Peoples Volunteers."
"Dated August 27, 1951."

GENERAL RIDGWAY'S MESSAGE TO GENERALS KIM IL SUNG AND
PENG TEE-HUA I 29 AUGUST 1951 KOREAN TIME

Your message of 28 August has been received.

On the night of 23 August your Liaison Officer, Colonel Chang, specifically refused the requests of my Liaison Officer to continue the investigation during daylight and to leave all of the alleged evidence in place. The offer you now make to permit a re-investigation after this lapse of time could serve no purpose other than to continue this unjustifiable delay in the armistice negotiations.

As stated in my previous message of 25 August, when you are prepared to terminate the suspension of armistice negotiations, which you declared on 23 August, I will direct my representatives to meet with yours, with a view to seeking a reasonable armistice agreement.

