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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey, on behalf of the United States Government as the Unified Command, established by Security Council resolution 84, 7 July 1950 (S/1588), the enclosed report from the United Nations Command regarding serious violations by North Korea of the Military Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 which have occurred since the issuance of the last report of the United Nations Command on 2 November 1967 (S/8217).

I request that this report be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Arthur J. GOLDBERG

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Government of the United States, representing the United Nations Command in Korea, deems it necessary to submit this special report of the United Nations Command to call the attention of the Security Council to the recent grave and serious violations by North Korea of the Military Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 and subsequent agreements. Far from having made any attempt to stop serious violations since the last United Nations Command report issued on 2 November 1967, North Korea has continued to infiltrate armed agents into the Republic of Korea for the purpose of setting ambushes and performing raids in and near the demilitarized zone and engaging in subversive activities throughout the country. The most recent incidents, however, are of such magnitude as to create a grave threat to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Attempted assassination of the President of the Republic of Korea

On 18 January of this year the North Korean régime dispatched a specially trained team of thirty-one agents armed with submachine-guns, grenades and explosives through the demilitarized zone into the Republic of Korea with orders to attack the residence of the President of the Republic of Korea in Seoul and to assassinate President Chung-Hee Park. This team of commando-trained assassins penetrated to the very outskirts of the city of Seoul before the warnings of local citizens and the actions of the national police thwarted their attempt on the President's life. The team had reached within 800 metres of the President's residence when halted.

During their progress south through the territory of the Republic of Korea, the North Korean agents held four civilians prisoner for five hours. During this time, the North Koreans interrogated the civilians and threatened their lives and their village, should they inform the authorities of the presence of armed North Korean agents. Despite these threats, the four civilians promptly reported the encounter to the authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Through interrogation of a captured agent it was learnt that the members of this team had been especially recruited from units of the North Korean army and trained for two years for missions of this type and for two weeks for this specific mission of assassination and terror. This single agent also had knowledge of 2,400 similar agents being trained in eight specialized camps throughout North Korea to deliberately attack the Republic of Korea.

On 22 January a loudspeaker broadcast by the North Koreans in the DMZ boasted that "the North Korean combat unit advanced from Kwung-Bok to Sudae-Mun. The unit killed a Korean national policeman and the Chief of Police and destroyed four military trucks.... The combat unit escaped from Park's clique and continued their mission." However, by 24 January the North Koreans had noticed their mistake and re-established their usual, improbable story that "the South Korean armed guerrillas attacked the desperately resisting enemies in Seoul".

As a result of this initial attack, and other attacks by armed aggressors from North Korea, eighteen military and civilian persons were killed and thirty-nine wounded by North Korean infiltrators, as shown by the following table of incidents and casualties:

Incidents and casualties

	<u>1 Jan.- 0600, 26 Jan. 1968</u>	<u>18 Oct. 1967- 31 Dec. 1967</u>
Significant incidents, DMZ area	19	22
Significant incidents, interior of ROK	22	1
Exchanges of fire, DMZ area	8	5
Exchanges of fire, interior of ROK	17	1
Casualties, North Korean killed within ROK	21	4
Casualties, North Korean captured within ROK	1	7
UNC military casualties, killed within ROK	11	9
UNC military casualties, wounded within ROK	35	15
ROK national police and other civilians killed within ROK	7	0
ROK national police and other civilians wounded within ROK	4	0

The above figures, taken together with those contained in the last report of the United Nations Command issued 2 November 1967, show that in the entire year 1967 North Korea caused 566 significant incidents in which 153 individuals were killed by North Korean infiltrators.

Conclusions

The fact that this type of "porous war" has been planned and directed from the highest level of the North Korean régime has been illustrated on many occasions by constant reference to these aggressive policies by leaders of the régime. The most recent, and blatantly open statement of this intentional aggression was in the 16 December 1967 speech by the régime premier, Il-Sung Kim, who said "the northern half of the Republic is the revolutionary base for accomplishing the cause of national liberation on a nation-wide scale" and who expects his people to "accomplish the revolutionary cause of unification of the country at all costs".

When the United Nations Command, in an attempt to negotiate this serious problem as prescribed by the Military Armistice Agreement and to restore peace and security to the area, raised the issue at the 261st meeting of the Military Armistice Commission on 24 January 1968, the representative of the North Korean side refused to address the incident in a serious and responsible manner. Concrete evidence, including a filmed interview of the captured North Korean agent and large quantities of North Korean arms and munitions, was dismissed by the representative of North Korea who claimed the attack on Seoul was perpetrated by South Korean citizens. In actual fact, the success of defensive measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Korea was in large part due to the wholehearted co-operation and participation of private South Korean citizens. This report clearly shows that North Korea is carrying out a programme in deliberate violation of the Armistice Agreement. The North Koreans have continued to refuse to co-operate in using the machinery established by the Armistice Agreement for the purpose of supervising the Armistice Agreement, making efforts to effect redress through this machinery so far futile.

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