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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to certain statements concerning the treaty relationships of Japan with the Republic of Korea and with the United States of America that were made by the representative of the Soviet Union at the 1388th meeting of the Security Council on 26 January 1968 (S/PV.1388, p. 52). In order to avoid any misunderstanding which might arise from those unfounded statements, I should like, on the instructions of my Government, to make the following comments.

1. The Treaty of Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, the full text of which is included as annex IV of the 1965 report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, contains no provisions of a military character. This is also true of the several agreements accompanying the Treaty which relate to fisheries, the solution of problems concerning property and claims and economic co-operation, legal status and treatment of nationals of the Republic of Korea residing in Japan, cultural assets and cultural co-operation. The Treaty on Basic Relations stipulates the basic principles that will govern normal relations will be established, and that the two countries will be guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter in their mutual relations. It is our firm belief that this Treaty and accompanying agreements, which were concluded solely on the basis of the deep aspiration of Japan and the Republic of Korea for the restoration of normal relations between the two countries, are certainly contributing to the peace and security of the area.

2. As to the Security Treaty between Japan and the United States of America, I should like to point out that it was concluded for defensive purposes only, is entirely free from any aggressive intent or objective, and has proved to be a basis for the maintenance of peace and security in the area.

3. Finally, I would conclude by pointing out that, far from having any aggressive designs or intentions with regard to neighbouring countries or peoples, Japan's earnest desire is to live with them in peace.

I shall be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Senjin TSURUOKA
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations
