



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/43/PV.34
21 October 1988

ENGLISH

Forty-third session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 19 October 1988, at 10 a.m.President:

Mr. CAPUTO

(Argentina)

- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections [16]
 - (b) Election of twelve members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General
 - (c) Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretary-General
 - (d) Election of seventeen members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- Promotion of peace, reconciliation and dialogue in the Korean peninsula [146] (continued)
- Organization of work

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER ELECTIONS

- (b) ELECTION OF TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/415)
- (c) ELECTION OF SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/43/416)
- (d) ELECTION OF SEVENTEEN MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly has before it document A/43/415, which contains the nominations by the Economic and Social Council.

The 12 retiring members are: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Mali, Somalia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: three African States for three vacancies: Cape Verde, Niger and Zimbabwe; four Asian States for two vacancies: Bangladesh, Cyprus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic; three Latin American and Caribbean States for three vacancies: Ecuador, Guatemala and Paraguay; two Socialist States of Eastern Europe for two vacancies: the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; two Western European and other States for two vacancies: Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. L. A. CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): My country has withdrawn its candidacy for membership of the World Food Council, so its name should not be on the ballot paper.

Mr. ZAMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) (interpretation from French): I should like to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran has withdrawn its candidacy for the membership of the World Food Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): Members of the Assembly have heard the statements of the representatives of Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a result, the number of States nominated from among the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean Groups, the Socialist States of Eastern Europe and the Group of Western European and other States is equal to the number of places allocated to each of those groups.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from each group is equal to the number of places allocated.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to declare that the States nominated have been elected members of the World Food Council for a three-year term beginning 1 January 1989?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I congratulate the States that have been elected.

The Assembly has concluded its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 16.

The Assembly will now turn to sub-item (c) of agenda item 16, "Election of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination".

In this connection the Assembly has before it document A/43/416, which contains the nominations by the Economic and Social Council to fill the vacancies

(The President)

on the Committee which will occur as a result of the expiration, on 31 December 1988, of the term of office of Argentina, Benin, France, Peru, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Zambia.

The following States have been nominated by the Economic and Social Council: two African States for two vacancies: Benin and Zambia; four Latin American and Caribbean States for two vacancies: the Bahamas, Chile, Peru and Venezuela; one Socialist State of Eastern Europe for one vacancy: the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and two Western European and other States for two vacancies: France and the United States of America.

For the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States there are two vacancies and four candidates.

Mr. BAZAN (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): Chile has decided to withdraw its candidacy for membership of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to announce that, despite the generous and wide-ranging support which we have received from all regional groups, for which we are most grateful, Peru, anxious to contribute to a solution based on unity and consensus that will ensure harmonious representation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, withdraws its candidacy. I therefore ask that, if such be the wish of the Assembly, it confirm and endorse the nominations of the Bahamas and Venezuela, the only two candidates now remaining from the Latin American and Caribbean region, for membership of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The members of the Assembly have heard the statements made by the representatives of Chile and Peru. The number of candidates from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States is thus the same as the number of places allocated to that group.

(The President)

Therefore the number of States nominated from among the African Group, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group of Socialist States of Eastern Europe and the Group of Western European and other States is equal to the number of places allocated to each of those groups.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may dispense with balloting when the number of States nominated from among the groups is equal to the number of places allocated to each of those groups.

May I therefore take it that the Assembly wishes to declare those States elected members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989).

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I congratulate the States which have just been elected.

We have now concluded consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 16.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of 17 members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to replace those members whose term of office expires on 15 May 1989.

The 17 outgoing members are Algeria, Australia, Austria, Brazil, the Central African Republic, China, Egypt, France, the German Democratic Republic, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Singapore, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Those members are eligible for immediate re-election.

(The President)

I should like to remind members that from 16 May 1989 the following States will still be members of the Commission: Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Spain, the United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. Therefore these 19 States are not eligible for election.

Under rule 92 of the rules of procedure, all elections must be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

I remind members, however, of paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, which states that the practice of dispensing with the secret ballot for elections to subsidiary organs when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled should become standard, unless a delegation specifically requests a vote on a given election.

In the absence of such a request, may I take it that the Assembly decides to proceed to the election on that basis?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I have to announce that the Chairmen of the regional groups have informed me of the following candidatures. For five seats for Africa: Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Togo; for the three seats for Asia: China, Japan and Singapore; for the two seats for Latin America and the Caribbean: Costa Rica and Mexico; for the two seats for the Socialist States of Eastern Europe: Bulgaria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and for the five seats for Western Europe and other States: Canada, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Since the number of candidates from each group corresponds to the number of places to be filled from that group, I declare those candidates elected members of

(The President)

the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for a six-year term beginning on 16 May 1989.

I congratulate all the States which have been elected members of the Commission.

We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 16.

AGENDA ITEM 146 (continued)

PROMOTION OF PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DIALOGUE IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): In accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, held on Friday, 23 September 1988, I call on the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Kang Sok Ju, who has expressed the wish to participate in the consideration of this item.

Mr. KANG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (spoke in Korean; English text furnished by the delegation): Let me first of all congratulate you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its forty-third session and express my profound thanks to you, and to the Secretary-General for giving an opportunity to the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take part in the discussion of the Korean question, which has been placed on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. I also express my gratitude to the representatives of many countries for their strenuous efforts to have included in the agenda of the General Assembly the item entitled "Promotion of peace, reconciliation and dialogue in the Korean peninsula", which my delegation has initiated.

I am pleased and honoured to speak in this forum to focus world public opinion on clarification of the position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on agenda item 146.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

The United Nations has again formally placed the Korean question on the agenda of its General Assembly for discussion 13 years after it was last considered. The General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, in 1975, adopted the resolution on dissolving the "United Nations Command" and withdrawing all foreign troops stationed in south Korea, replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and drastically reducing the armed forces of the north and the south to an equal level. That reasonable resolution adopted by the United Nations, however, remains unimplemented. Tension is still acute and the danger of war is constantly hovering over the Korean peninsula.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Today the Korean people are faced with a grave choice: peace or war, reunification or division. We have now an immediate duty to resolve this difficult situation; terminate the division, which spells untold misfortune and suffering for the Korean nation; and achieve peace in the Korean peninsula.

To link the severed national ties of blood and reunify the divided country is a sacred struggle to achieve the co-ordinated development and prosperity of the entire Korean nation.

As is well known, Korea is a homogeneous nation which had lived in harmony for 5,000 years in the same territory with one and the same language and culture. Forty years have already passed since our compatriots, who had lived as part of the same stock throughout history, were separated into the north and the south. New generations that were born in the divided territory have grown up without knowing the reunified motherland.

The split of the territory and nation brings about distrust and confrontation within the country and wastes enormous energy and wealth of the nation. It is for that reason that our people's aspiration to reunification is so strong and fervent.

Although the territory and nation are divided into two and a barrier of division stands across the territory, the national spirit of the Korean people is as united as ever. There can be no barrier in the hearts of the countrymen, who long for reunification. There is no internal reason for the Koreans, who have lived as a homogeneous nation for thousands of years, to be severed into two parts in our time.

Unfeeling objects can be mechanically divided, but no force can divide the reunification aspiration of our nation of 60 million. That is why the South Korean people are crying out that reunification is the only way of survival. In South Korea today, youths and students and other people are rising up as one in a broad

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

struggle to oppose the country's division and achieve national reunification; they are shouting "Let's go to the north. Come to the south. Let's meet at Panmunjom." This nation-wide struggle against territorial and national division clearly indicates that there are but a handful who seek national division. The absolute majority of the people in south Korea are longing for reunification.

The Korean people have never wanted and will never want our country to be bisected into "two Koreas". The division must be ended, and the reunification will inevitably be accomplished.

Because of its very nature Korean reunification should be achieved on the basis of the three principles - independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity - already agreed upon between the North and the South. The three principles for national reunification are reasonable ones to meet the independent requirements of the Korean nation and the aspirations of the world's people as reflected in resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea holds that the realistic method of settling the question of national reunification is to establish a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo on the basis of the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity. There exist two different social systems in the north and the south of the Korean peninsula. The existence of these two different social systems should not be a pretext to divide our country into two.

We oppose any attempts to create "two Koreas" to perpetuate the division of Korea. The aim of dividing Korea into two on the pretext of the different social systems in the north and the south of Korea is to keep south Korea as a permanent estate of some foreigners. The attempt to freeze the division of Korea runs counter to the ardent aspirations of the Korean people to reunification and the desire of the world's peoples for peace. It is said that peace will be settled in

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Korea if the existence of "two Koreas" is legally fixed by methods of "cross contacts", "cross recognition" and "admission into the United Nations". But this is an incorrect and unrealistic way of thinking.

We have suffered much pain for nearly half a century because of State and national division. On what grounds, then, should we allow legalization of a division into "two Koreas" now? The legalization of "two Koreas" will never bring a peace settlement on the Korean peninsula but, on the contrary, will further aggravate the situation, deepening the danger of war. The historical facts show that if a country and nation remain divided - no matter in what form - distrust, misunderstanding and confrontation will ensue and will end in conflict, instead of peace. The only way for our nation to live peacefully without being divided and fighting against each other is to achieve national reunification, leaving the two social systems in the north and the south as they are.

It is our view that we can achieve the unity of the nation and the reunification of the country even if the different ideas and systems exist in the north and the south. We consider it reasonable to form a unified State by federating the two autonomous governments, leaving the two systems as they are on the basis of the principle of coexistence, each refraining from conquering the other or from overwhelming the other in order to reunify the country, since different ideas and systems really exist in the north and the south of Korea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, put forward in October 1980 the proposal on establishing a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo; he reiterated the proposal this September in his report to the National Meeting to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of our Republic. Our proposal to found a confederal State envisages the

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

establishment of a supreme national confederal assembly with an equal number of representatives from the north and the south, the organization of a confederal standing committee in the assembly and the setting up of a unified government to guide the regional governments in the north and the south, to discuss and decide on common affairs connected with the country's overall interests and to carry forward the uniform development of the nation. In this proposal of ours there is no hidden attempt to insinuate "unification through communization" and no intention to impose our ideas and system on the southern side.

In view of the present situation and conditions on the Korean peninsula, the most reasonable way to achieve national reunification is by bringing the existing two social systems in the north and the south together in a confederation through coexistence.

The purpose of our proposal on establishing the confederal republic is to achieve the cause of national reunification. It is also intended to put an end to the war on the Korean peninsula for ever and to protect the peace and security of the Asia-Pacific region from any possible conflict that could result because of the Korean question. Only when the confederal State is established can a durable peace be ensured on the Korean peninsula and the desire of the nation be put into effect.

We have already clarified the programme to be enforced by the unified confederal State. This is the 10-point policy of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo (DCRK).

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should adhere to Chajusong - that is, independence - in all State activities and follow an independent policy as a fully independent, sovereign State and non-aligned, neutral nation which is not a satellite of any other nation. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should effect democracy throughout the north and the south and develop a democratic social and political system in all spheres of society.

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should bring about economic co-operation and exchange between the north and the south and ensure the development of an independent national economy. The authorities or enterprises in the north and the south would set up and run joint companies, common markets and the like. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should realize north-south exchange and co-operation in the spheres of science, culture and education, reopen transport and communications, including now closed motor roads, railways and air and shipping lines, and ensure a stable livelihood for the entire people.

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should completely remove the source of military confrontation between the north and the south, amalgamate the armies in both parts to form a single combined national army followed by the massive reduction of military strength, abolish the military demarcation line and dissolve militia organizations.

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should defend and protect the national rights and interests of all Koreans overseas, handle properly the foreign relations established by the north and the south prior to reunification and co-ordinate the foreign activities of the two regional Governments in a unified way. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is to repeal all treaties with other countries detrimental to national amity, including military treaties concluded separately by the north and the south prior to reunification.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should permit the north and the south to co-operate economically with other countries irrespective of their social systems, and not only leave intact the capital invested by other nations in south Korea prior to reunification and continue to ensure their concessions but also promote new investments of foreign capital.

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should, as a unified State representing the entire Korean nation, develop friendly relations with all countries of the world and pursue a peaceful foreign policy. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should be the only representative of the entire Korean nation in foreign relations. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should represent the entire Korean nation in the United Nations and other international organizations and would have to send a single delegation to all international meetings and gatherings where the whole nation is to be represented. The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should adhere to a line of neutrality, follow a policy of non-alignment and not threaten in any way the adjacent countries.

Neither side of Korea should be a satellite of other nations during the present state of division, and Korea should not be a satellite of any other country even after it is reunified.

The Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo should make the Korean peninsula a permanent peace zone and nuclear-free zone. To this end, it should prohibit the presence of foreign troops and the establishment of foreign military bases on its territory and ban the manufacture, introduction and use of nuclear weapons.

Thus, our proposal for the establishment of a confederal State is acceptable to everybody as the most reasonable and practical peaceful reunification programme. To establish a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is the most correct way to settle the question of Korea's reunification independently and

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

peacefully by the united efforts of the entire nation to meet the common desire and will of the nation.

In order to reunify the north and the south of Korea into a confederal State, north-south dialogues and negotiations must be developed. We want the north-south dialogue to be a dialogue for reunification, for détente and for reconciliation, and have made sincere efforts to achieve this. It is true that north-south dialogues through different channels have been held on several occasions, but they have borne no fruit.

Why have these dialogues failed? Because the dialogue was not a dialogue for reunification. The dialogue cannot be fruitful as long as the other side intends to use dialogue to freeze in place the national division no matter how great an effort we make to hasten reunification through dialogues.

The north-south dialogue should be in any case a catalyst for national reunification, not a means for division. No dialogue can be productive but will only lead to fruitless and empty talks, as in the past, if the parties concerned do not take an attitude and stance of true reconciliation, of unity for reunification. This is one of the important lessons we have experienced through our previous north-south dialogues.

Another reason for the failure of the north-south dialogue is the continuation of the serious political confrontation and military tensions which create deep-rooted misunderstanding and distrust between the north and the south. It is very clear that no progress can be expected unless the political and military confrontation is removed and the tensions eased between the north and the south.

For nearly half a century since our country was divided, we have advanced various reasonable initiatives and proposals to remove the political and military

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

confrontation through dialogue and to realize national reunification, and we have made all efforts to implement them.

After the cease-fire in Korea the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed discussing how to ease tension and remove the source of war as a priority for national reunification. The problems of distrust and misunderstanding cannot be settled, nor can an atmosphere of trust be created between the north and the south in our country, simply through the solution of humanitarian problems or exchanges in other irrelevant or subsidiary areas. Trust can be ensured only when the political and military confrontation is removed.

The north-south dialogue must address itself first of all to solving the fundamental questions related to reunification. The regaining of confidence and the fundamental question of reunification cannot be achieved only through trade or mutual visits, especially if the discussion of the political and military questions for creating pre-conditions for reunification is ignored.

The dialogue should be a wide-ranging dialogue that can reflect the requirements and will of the entire people in a democratic manner. The dialogue for reunification must not be monopolized by the authorities or by any particular party or group. The north-south dialogue must be participated in not only by the authorities of the north and the south but also by different parties, social organizations, people from all walks of life and overseas compatriots. They should actively promote different forms of bilateral and multilateral contacts and negotiations.

Early this year we set forth a proposal for a north-south joint conference attended by authorities of both sides, representatives of the political parties and social organizations and people from all walks of life in the north and the south. On 20 July last the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent to the National Assembly of south Korea a letter requesting a north-south parliamentary joint conference to adopt a joint declaration on non-aggression.

Because of our positive initiative, talks are now being held for the convening of a north-south parliamentary joint conference in our country. We are exerting patient efforts in the hope of making great progress in paving the way to reunification through the north-south parliamentary joint conference now under discussion.

We also wish to hold top-level north-south talks to further the north-south dialogue. Such top-level talks have already been proposed by us.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

The respected leader President Kim Il Sung made clear once again our stand on the north-south top-level talks at the national meeting to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, held this September.

The north-south top-level talks must discuss and decide, first of all, the matter of adopting a non-aggression declaration between north and south by which neither side is restrained or guaranteed by anyone else, as well as the question of the founding of a confederal Government of the unified State or establishment of a committee for peaceful reunification and the like for the setting up of such a Government. They must not discuss the matter of keeping the country divided into "two Koreas" while for ever turning their faces away from the discussion of such fundamental questions. From such a point of view, we welcome a visit to Pyongyang by the highest authority of south Korea in order to adopt a non-aggression declaration and discuss the problems of national reunification.

The point in question is to develop the conditions for the holding of north-south top-level talks in order to produce the desired results. Today in south Korea, those who study the reality of the north and read books on the Juche idea are arrested and imprisoned on charges of violating the law. In such a situation, we are afraid that even the highest authority of south Korea could be charged with violating the law if he were to come to Pyongyang.

Laws that create obstacles to dialogue and reunification must be repealed. Without abrogating such laws it will be difficult to bring into effect any dialogue for reunification and true reconciliation between the north and the south. And furthermore, in south Korea large-scale military exercises against us are constantly being conducted. This is also spoiling the atmosphere of reconciliation and dialogue between the north and the south.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Under such conditions, when they are rudely filling the air with the sound of war exercises against the north while hiding a dagger in their breast pocket, how can we talk about reconciliation between the north and the south and have an open-hearted exchange of views? If the south Korean authorities really want reunification, they should turn their words into deeds, participate in mutual travels and contacts and take substantial steps for creating a fresh atmosphere for realizing reconciliation and dialogue.

If the south Korean authorities are not able to take such steps at the moment, there could be high-level political and military talks between the north and the south aimed at easing acute political confrontation and military tensions on the Korean peninsula; these could be an intermediate step towards creating the necessary conditions for top-level talks between the north and the south of Korea.

We wish that the proposed north-south top-level talks will bear good fruit to put an end to the tragedy of the territorial split and the national division and open up the door to reunification so as to fulfil the expectations of the entire nation.

The removal of the war danger and the easing of tension on the Korean peninsula are the most urgent and important question and provide the indispensable conditions for the peaceful reunification of Korea. A peace agreement should be concluded between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America and a non-aggression declaration be adopted between the north and the south to arrange for a firm guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula. The foreign troops and nuclear weapons should be withdrawn from south Korea, a drastic phased reduction of arms be effected in the north and south, and the Korean peninsula be converted into a nuclear-free peace zone.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

We have long proposed to hold talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement to settle these problems. We set forth proposals on several occasions in the 1980s alone and left no stone unturned to implement them. In January 1984, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed the holding of tripartite talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States of America and south Korea to conclude a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and to adopt a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south.

In April 1985, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to hold north-south parliamentary talks to discuss the problem of détente, including the problem of making a public joint declaration on non-aggression between the north and the south.

We also put forward a proposal for north-south high-level political and military talks to discuss such problems as refraining from slandering one another, realizing multilateral collaboration and interchange, reducing the armed forces, stopping an arms race, turning the demilitarized zone along the Military Demarcation Line into a peace zone, refraining from large-scale military exercises, increasing the authority of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and organizing a neutral nations inspection force.

In order to open up a decisive breakthrough in easing tension on the Korean peninsula, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea put forward on 23 July 1987 an epoch-making proposal that the north and the south of Korea should reduce their armed forces in three stages, so that by 1992 each side should maintain a level of less than 100,000 troops respectively, and that along with this

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

phased military reduction by the north and the south, the United States should withdraw all its forces, including nuclear weapons, from south Korea.

In order to bring into effect these phased military reductions, the Government of the Republic proposed to hold tripartite talks between the north and the south of Korea and the United States, and also to proceed with two channels of bilateral talks, namely, between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, and between us and south Korea, in case the United States and south Korea do not immediately accept the tripartite talks.

With a view to effectuating the possibility of a military reduction on the Korean peninsula, the Government of the Republic unilaterally demobilized 100,000 men of the Korean People's Army by the end of 1987. The meeting of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held on 20 July this year proposed parliamentary talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States to discuss the question of the conclusion of a peace agreement.

In fact, there is no reason or condition today why an arms reduction should not be effectuated on the Korean peninsula. They allege that foreign troops are stationed in south Korea to curb a so-called southward invasion. However, no "southward invasion" has ever happened for the last decades, and it will never happen in the future either. No one can justify the stationing of foreign troops in south Korea by invoking the "ghost" of a so-called southward invasion.

The United States should adopt an earnest stand for dialogue and negotiations with us, be it tripartite talks or bilateral talks, to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

When the peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States is concluded and a north-south non-aggression declaration is adopted, this will provide excellent pre-conditions for peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea also considers the question of our United Nations membership in view of our striving for reunification. We think that it is quite natural for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to have its own seat in the United Nations. Who on earth thinks that we are rejecting the idea of United Nations membership? On the contrary, we are eager to become a Member State of the United Nations.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

However, we must seriously handle the question of Korea's United Nations membership because we are a direct party concerned and responsible for the country's reunification. If the north and the south of Korea enter the United Nations separately, it will fix the division of Korea and legalize the existence of "two Koreas" internationally. This will only bring about the grave result of perpetuating the division of our country. We demand that the question of entry to the United Nations by the north and the south of Korea be discussed first between the parties concerned. Peace has not been settled and misunderstanding and mistrust have not been removed on the Korean peninsula today. This is because of the failure to reunify Korea, not because of the non-United Nations membership of the north and the south of Korea.

I am authorized to reclarify on this rostrum the stand of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that Korea must enter the United Nations under the designation of one reunified confederal State, after its establishment through the desire for reunification of the Korean nation. Once the confederal State is established on the Korean peninsula the entire Korean people will naturally have their full-fledged seat in the United Nations.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since the first day of its founding has respected the purposes of the United Nations and the principles of its Charter and will continue actively to co-operate with the United Nations. The United Nations is now playing an important role in resolving regional conflicts and disputes, and confidence in the United Nations is increasing. We believe that the United Nations should pay deep attention to the solution of the Korean problem as one of its priority issues, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Mr. Kang, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

The United Nations should, first of all, take appropriate steps aimed at getting the foreign troops wearing the helmets of "UN Forces" withdrawn from south Korea, an action which will help the United Nations fulfil its obligation and contribute to paving the way for settling the problems by the Korean people themselves in accordance with the Joint Statement of 4 July 1972 agreed to by the north and the south.

We will always spare no wisdom and power for peace, not war, for reunification, not division. The Korean people who underwent the disaster of the war and are still suffering from the pain of division treasure peace more than anybody else and wish to live in peace and harmony together with all the peoples of the world.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in unity with the peace-loving United Nations Member States will wage an ever more active struggle to build a peaceful and independent new world and to materialize the long-cherished desire of the 60 million Korean people for reunification.

I would like to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation to the Governments of various countries for their deep attention to the development in the Korean peninsula and for their support to my Government's stance towards the independent and peaceful reunification of the homeland. At the same time I also express my gratitude to those delegations which expressed their strong solidarity with our people's cause of reunification in their deliberations in the general debate of the General Assembly.

Last but not least, I wish the current forty-third session of the General Assembly all success.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 146.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): With respect to agenda item 26, "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity", I should like to inform members that upon the request of the sponsors of draft resolution A/43/L.1 and Corr.1 consideration of this item has been postponed. The date for its consideration will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.