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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter, dated 14 November 1988, was addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations. In accordance with the request contained in the letter, the text is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 14 November 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the communiqué on a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 7 November 1988.

(Signed) CHANG Yong Chol
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Observer of the
Democratic People's Republic of
Korea to the United Nations

Enclosure

Communiqué dated 7 November 1988 on a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council

A joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at Pyongyang on 7 November 1988.

Attending the meeting were members of the Central People's Committee, the SPA Standing Committee and the Administration Council.

The meeting put on the agenda the item entitled "All-inclusive measures to guarantee peace for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country" and discussed important measures to remove the danger of war and achieve peace on the Korean peninsula.

Analysing and appraising the situation within and without, first of all, the joint meeting unanimously confirmed that new, realistic possibilities for the solution of the peace problem of the country are being created.

The joint meeting noted:

The reunification of the country had not been realized yet and still remained a cherished desire of the nation though more than 40 years had passed since its division. Incalculable are the efforts and struggle of our people for the cause of the country's reunification and the energies and sacrifices dedicated to it in those years.

But the desire and purpose of the nation for the country's reunification always faced the challenge of an acute situation. After the division of the country, the north and the south had spent a rigid period of severance without dialogue for a quarter of a century in the midst of endless confrontation and the danger of war and the dialogues arranged after the 1970s broke up each time without fruit in distrust and the danger of armed conflicts developed to an extreme pitch.

Without peace, dialogue cannot be successful neither can a peaceful reunification of the country be achieved.

The more urgent the reunification of the country stands out, the earlier the peace problem must be resolved.

Only when peace is guaranteed on the Korean peninsula can our nation be freed from the constant danger of war, conditions favourable for a peaceful reunification be created and a contribution be made to the cause of peace in Asia and the world.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in view of the momentous significance of the peace problem on

the Korean peninsula, have all along bent every effort possible to ease the tensions, prevent the outbreak of another war and turn the unstable armistice into a durable peace from right after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

We have put forward a series of reasonable peace proposals to create a favourable pre-condition for the reunification of the country and proposed time and again to take urgent measures for the relaxation of the acute military situation in order to bring about an atmosphere for dialogue. As a token of our sincere peace efforts, we have taken practical measures such as unilateral reduction of armed forces and the stoppage of large-scale military manoeuvres on a number of occasions.

The peace-loving stand and efforts of our Party and the Government of our Republic have won the active support and sympathy of our people and the people of the world.

Reality clearly proves the validity and vitality of our consistent peace-loving line and policy.

The internal and external situation today is developing in favour of the accomplishment of the cause of the country's peace and peaceful reunification even in a complex stream.

The movement of people of all strata for national reunification is rapidly growing and loud voices demanding peace are ringing out in south Korea.

Broad circles are calling for the withdrawal of the United States troops and nuclear weapons from south Korea and demanding the signing of a peace agreement and the adoption of a non-aggression declaration.

This has become a trend which no one can check or turn back now in south Korea where people were not allowed even to talk about peace and peaceful reunification.

In the international dimension, too, a phase of détente is being opened by the active efforts of the Socialist countries and the world's peace-loving people and, accordingly, world-wide interest in the Korean question is rapidly growing.

In the face of the powerful trend towards détente and peace, even the rulers of south Korea are now unable to ignore the question of peace on the Korean peninsula and find themselves constrained to express, willy-nilly, their stand towards it.

Under these circumstances the joint meeting took note of the fact that the south Korean authority in his recent speech at the United Nations General Assembly expressed his readiness to consult about the military question.

As already known, the successive rulers of south Korea, while speaking of peace, accepted none of our peace proposals and opposed any practical measure for peace. While raising outcries over "threat from the north", they obdurately refused even to discuss the military question at the north-south dialogue, saying it is "premature".

In view of this fact, the words of the present south Korean authority manifesting for the first time his willingness to discuss with us on arms reduction and non-aggression declaration are noteworthy positive developments, no matter what his true intention is. Though this expression of will by the south Korean authority seems rather belated and is still ambiguous, this is, obviously, a response to our persistent peace proposals, which we cannot but say is a lucky thing for the future of the country and nation.

If the south Korean side responds to a peace negotiation with us in conformity with the prevailing situation and the urgent aspiration of the nation, it will be arranged at any time and if they approach the negotiation truly from the stand for peace and peaceful reunification, the road of peace will be opened, no doubt.

The matter of war or peace on the Korean peninsula depends entirely on the option of our nation itself.

It is the very time when the north and south should remove the danger of war which has been heavily hanging over the head of our nation for decades and courageously open a phase of a turning point for peace.

Today when a precious new start towards peace is at hand, the north and the south should confirm together basic principles and comprehensive peace proposals for the relaxation of tensions and guarantee of peace as a joint peace programme and co-ordinate their steps for their realization.

Proceeding from this stand, the joint meeting put forward, first of all, the following new four principles for the guarantee of peace as a common basis for peace on the Korean peninsula.

Firstly, peace on the Korean peninsula must be oriented towards the reunification of the country.

Peace in our country is a prerequisite to the cause of national reunification.

Peace in our divided country must never be confined to itself and never be one for freezing the division by creating "two Koreas".

Peace is precious to our nation, but more precious is reunification. The divisionary attempt to use peace for the creation of "two Koreas" under the cloak of "preservation of peace" must be rejected.

Only peace for reunification is true peace in our country, so peace must be oriented to reunification under all circumstances.

Secondly, peace on the Korean peninsula must be guaranteed by the withdrawal of foreign armed forces.

The presence of foreign armed forces is the basic factor barring the unity and reunification of our nation and jeopardizing peace.

As long as foreign troops stay in half of our country, peace cannot be realized and it is an empty talk to argue about peace with the foreign armed forces left there.

Peace on the Korean peninsula can be firmly guaranteed only by the withdrawal of foreign armed forces.

Thirdly, peace on the Korean peninsula must be guaranteed by arms reduction in the north and the south.

The vast armed forces kept by the north and the south are not only heavy burdens on both sides but also another factor that might touch off an armed conflict.

War can never be prevented by the equilibrium of strength attained through competitive arms build-up.

If an armed conflict is to be prevented between the north and the south, the two sides must not resort to an arms race from the position of strength but cripple the attack capacity against the opposite side by cutting down the armed forces to a minimum size.

Peace on the Korean peninsula can be a lasting one only when balanced disarmament between the north and the south is realized together with the withdrawal of the foreign armed forces from south Korea.

Fourthly, peace on the Korean peninsula must be realized through dialogue among the parties responsible for the aggravation of tensions.

The factor increasing tensions is not present outside the Korean peninsula but inside it, and the parties responsible for them are none other than the United States which keeps its troops in south Korea and the north and the south of Korea.

The peace problem cannot be solved by means of creating an "international environment" by inveigling this or that country into the discussion of the Korean question, ignoring the root cause of war on the Korean peninsula.

The four principles for the guarantee of peace, whose keynotes are orientation to reunification, withdrawal of foreign troops, arms reduction in the north and the south and negotiation among parties concerned are indispensable principles of peace on the Korean peninsula and a common landmark for resolving the peace problem in the interest of our nation.

If the north and the south confirm together these principles for the guarantee of peace and sincerely implement them, peace can be realized in the shortest period of time and most durably in our country.

The joint meeting stressed that the comprehensive peace proposal for guaranteeing a durable peace and creating favourable pre-conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification on the basis of the four principles for the guarantee of peace must be confirmed.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has said:

"If a guarantee for peace on the Korean peninsula is to be provided, it is necessary to conclude a peace agreement between us and the United States, adopt a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south, force the United States troops and nuclear weapons out of south Korea and effect a phased and drastic reduction of the armed forces of the north and the south."

The joint meeting noted that the presence of the United States forces in south Korea is the biggest obstacle to the guarantee of peace on the Korean peninsula and the solution of this problem has a decisive effect on the relaxation of tensions between the north and the south, too.

Considering that the present trend towards détente and peace puts the withdrawal of the United States armed forces from south Korea as a matured requisite which brooks no more delay, the joint meeting set forth the following comprehensive peace proposal envisaging phased reduction of all the armed forces existing on the Korean peninsula and the relaxation of political and military confrontation for the present.

1. Phased withdrawal of the United States forces and arms reduction between the north and the south for a durable peace on the Korean peninsula

- (a) The phased withdrawal of the United States armed forces:
- (i) The United States shall withdraw, first of all, its nuclear weapons which would spell irrevocable disasters to our nation. The nuclear weapons shall be withdrawn in two phases by the end of 1990. The nuclear weapons deployed in the area north of latitude 35 degrees 30 minutes north shall be withdrawn in the first phase by the end of 1989 and those deployed south of it in the second phase by the end of 1990;
 - (ii) The United States shall withdraw its forces from south Korea. The withdrawal of the United States forces shall be made in three phases by the end of 1991. The Ground Force, together with the United States Forces Command, shall withdraw to the line of Pusan and Chinhae south of latitude 35 degrees 30 minutes north in the first phase by the end of 1989, the whole of the Ground Force shall pull completely out of south Korea in the second phase by the end of 1990 and the whole of the naval and air forces in the third phase by the end of 1991;
 - (iii) The United States shall not ship new armed forces into or deliver military equipment to south Korea from the day of starting the withdrawal of its forces;
 - (iv) The United States shall not transfer to south Korea nuclear weapons and all other weapons and combat and technical equipment which will be withdrawn from south Korea;

(b) Phased reduction of armed forces in the north and the south:

- (i) The north and the south shall maintain the equilibrium of armed forces by means of each reducing forces. The armed forces shall be cut in three phases by the end of 1991 on the principle of reducing first the armed forces deployed in the front area along the military demarcation line (MDL), special units and paratroopers. The armed forces in the north and the south shall be separately cut to the level of 400,000 strong by the end of 1989 and to the level of 250,000 strong by the end of 1990 to be less than 100,000 strong from 1992;
- (ii) The north and the south shall stage by stage cut military equipment commensurate with the reduction of military personnel. Military equipment shall be cut in conformity with the phased reduction of military personnel, and special weapons including nuclear and chemical weapons shall be totally eliminated on the first phase. The shipment of military equipment from outside shall be stopped from the beginning of the arms cut;
- (iii) The north and the south shall dissolve all civilian military organizations within six months from the start of arms cut;

(c) Information and inspection of the withdrawal of United States forces and arms reduction of the north and the south:

- (i) The United States shall inform the north side of the process of the withdrawal of United States forces and the north and south shall inform each other of the process of the reduction of the armed forces on both sides and make this information public;
- (ii) The authority of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) in Panmunjom shall be extended to make an inspection to confirm the process of the withdrawal of the United States forces and the process of the reduction of the armed forces in the north and the south;

(d) Tripartite talks involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and south Korea. Talks involving responsible officials concerned shall be convened in order to discuss and settle the problem of the phased withdrawal of United States forces and arms cut in the north and the south:

- (i) Tripartite talks involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and south Korea shall be held as talks among the responsible parties concerned. Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States, north-south bilateral talks can be held within the framework of tripartite talks;
- (ii) Representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Sweden, nations members of NNSC, shall attend the tripartite talks as observers in order to discuss the problem of the inspection of the phased withdrawal of United States forces and the reduction of the armed forces in the north and the south and the problem of extending the authority of NNSC;

- (iii) Tripartite talks, on the basis of the agreement on the withdrawal of United States forces and the reduction of the armed forces in the north and the south, shall confirm and fix the agreement as a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and a non-aggression declaration between the north and the south.

2. Easing present political and military confrontation between the north and the south

- (a) Relaxation of political confrontation:
- (i) The north and the south shall stop slandering each other. The north and the south shall stop attacking each other calling by names and stop slandering and defaming the ideas and systems of the other side. The north and the south shall halt the scattering of leaflets in the areas of each other and broadcasting through loudspeakers on the military demarcation line;
- (ii) The north and the south shall terminate the political functions aimed to slander the other side and incite confrontation. Rules ignoring the system of the other side shall be abrogated;
- (iii) The north and the south shall realize multilateral collaboration and interchange. They shall realize bilateral or multilateral contact and free travel of political parties and groupings and individual personages. They shall jointly develop and utilize natural resources and start the exchange of commodities. They shall realize co-operation and interchange for the development of education, science and technology, culture and art, public health and sports. They shall not confront or compete with each other in the international arena but jointly co-operate with each other;
- (b) Relaxation of military confrontation:
- (i) The north and the south, with a view to removing the confrontation between the armed forces of both sides, shall convert the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line into a peace zone. The inspection force of the neutral nations composed of military personnel of the nations members of NNSC shall be deployed in the demilitarized zone along the military demarcation line;
- (ii) The north and the south shall stop large-scale military manoeuvres against each other. They shall halt military exercises above the scale of combined units in the front and the rear areas. They shall stop any military drill with foreign forces, irrespective of its scale;
- (iii) The north and the south shall halt any military action which may cause a military conflict on the ground and the sea and in the sky of the area along the military demarcation line;

- (iv) The north and the south, in order to prevent the expansion of any accidental conflict, shall open direct telephone links between the high-level military authorities of both sides;

(c) High-level political and military talks between the north and the south. North-south high-level political and military talks shall be held for the relaxation of the immediate political and military confrontation between the north and the south. High-level political and military representatives of both sides who have real powers practically to solve problems shall attend north-south high-level political and military talks. High-level political talks and military talks may be held separately within the framework of north-south high-level political and military talks.

Considering in unison that the comprehensive peace proposals are the most reasonable peace programme for easing the acute confrontation and tension created between the north and the south and reliably guaranteeing a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, the joint meeting said:

If the comprehensive peace proposals are carried into practice, the root cause of war will be removed and the danger of nuclear war be dispelled, too, on the Korean peninsula, and the Korean peninsula which is regarded as a hotbed of war will be turned into a stable nuclear-free peace zone. The history of misunderstanding and mistrust and antagonism and confrontation between the north and the south which has lasted for decades will be brought to an end, and a chapter of a new history of reconciliation, trust and unity be opened in our country. There is no doubt that all this will give the whole nation new hope for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Reflected in our proposals is the trend of the times for relaxation and peace and the ardent desire of the whole nation for the peace of the country and its independent and peaceful reunification.

Fully taken into consideration is the will of the United States which said it hoped the relaxation of the situation on the Korean peninsula and the south Korean authority who said he would discuss military problems including disarmament.

The world's people will distinguish whether the words of the United States and the south Korean authorities are true or not in their attitude towards our comprehensive peace proposals.

If the United States truly wants relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and improvement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States relations, it should not pretend to give favours to anyone in extremely limited matters, such as partial exchange in the cultural field, contact of diplomats and sale of food and drugs, but take the road of fundamentally resolving the problem of peace in our country as a responsible party concerned for the solution of the Korean question.

The south Korean authorities said in the United Nations that they would consult about the question of disarmament and non-aggression. If it is true, they

should not request the United States for "co-operation for security" or turn their faces to the "creation of an international climate" as they did in the past, but decide to remove the root cause of war on the soil of our country.

The joint meeting, expressing the belief that our epochal and realistic peace proposals will be carried into effect, noted:

If tripartite talks involving the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and south Korea and north-south high-level political and military talks are held and they progress successfully, both the north and the south will hold top-level talks in a good atmosphere.

The north-south top-level talks will be a weighty event of epochal significance on the road to achieving peace in the country and the cause of peaceful reunification.

The north-south top-level talks will discuss basic problems, such as the problems of adopting a non-aggression declaration and founding a confederal republic and they will open an epochal phase for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

Considering that both high-level political and military talks have a decisive significance in arranging north-south top-level talks, the joint meeting decided to take a step to hold the talks promptly.

Expressing the belief that north-south high-level political and military talks will have a positive influence on the promotion of parliamentary talks and continuation of multichannel dialogues including economic and Red Cross talks, the joint meeting pointed out:

It has been our nation's desire cherished for nearly half a century to live in happiness in a sovereign, peaceful and reunified country free from foreign forces and the danger of war.

No one should flout people by empty talk or trifle with the destiny of the nation with dialogue at the present juncture in view of the urgency of this national desire whose realization brooks no further delay.

The stand and attitude towards national reunification should be proved in practical deeds not in words.

We must confirm the three principles of independence, peace and great national unity agreed upon by the north and the south and recognized by the world as immutable principles of national reunification and carry them into practice.

The best way of solving the question of reunification through the application of these principles in our country lies in forming a unified State by means of federating the two autonomous Governments, leaving the two systems as they are on the principle of coexistence, one refraining from conquering the other or one side refraining from overwhelming the other.

The joint meeting emphasized that the founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo is the most proper way of solving the reunification question independently and peacefully in reliance on the united strength of the whole nation and in conformity with the common requirement and will of the nation.

Our nation will soon bid farewell to the 1980s burning with the desire for reunification and greet the last decade of the twentieth century.

1995 is a historic year which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of the country. For our nation this year must be an important milestone of history beyond which the task of national reunification should not be put aside.

All Koreans in the north and the south and overseas should courageously advance in firm unity against the adverse tide of confrontation and division under the banner of national salvation and reunification and make the year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the country's liberation a historical turning point when the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country has been accomplished and the cherished desire of fellow countrymen realized.

The joint meeting called upon the entire nation to turn out as one in the nation-wide struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country full of new hope and conviction, confidently looking forward to the historic day of the birth of a unified country.

Noting that peace on the Korean peninsula is directly linked with peace in Asia and the world, the joint meeting expressed the expectation that the Governments and peace-loving peoples of all countries the world over will express firm solidarity with our people in the just cause of easing the tension and preserving a durable peace in Korea and reunifying the country.

In conclusion, the joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the SPA Standing Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with a view to achieving peace on the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country at an early date, decided with unanimous approval of the attendants to send letters carrying the proposal for realizing the new comprehensive peace overtures to the United States Government and the south Korean authorities.

