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MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES  
INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND STUDY  
OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF  
VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND  
WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR  
OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES

Report of the Secretary-General

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COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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[25 November 1983]

Observations on the question of measures to prevent  
international terrorism

1. In conformity with its primary foreign policy objectives of peace and international co-operation, the Republic of Korea has always opposed all acts of international terrorism which take innocent human lives and endanger international peace and security, and has attached great importance to international efforts to prevent acts of international terrorism and eliminate their underlying causes.
2. The Republic of Korea therefore welcomed General Assembly resolutions 3034 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 31/102 of 15 December 1976, 32/147 of 16 December 1977, 34/145 of 17 December 1979 and 36/109 of 10 December 1981, and supported, in particular, the 11-point recommendations relating to practical measures of co-operation for the speedy elimination of the problem of international terrorism, submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism 1/ and endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session in resolution 34/145 and at its thirty-sixth session in resolution 36/109.
3. In pursuit of its policy against international terrorism, the Republic of Korea has acceded to the following international conventions mentioned in the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism: 1/
  - (a) The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963;
  - (b) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970;
  - (c) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971;
  - (d) The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted at New York on 14 December 1973;
  - (e) The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted at New York on 17 December 1979.
4. The Republic of Korea is gravely concerned over the spread of acts of international terrorism, particularly those perpetrated in the territory of other sovereign States. The recent terrorist bomb attack in Rangoon, Burma, on 9 October 1983, is unparalleled in its scope, brutality, atrocity and barbarity. The bomb attack was aimed at the presidential party of the Republic of Korea during

the State visit of President Chun Doo Hwan to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma and claimed 21 lives, including those of four Korean cabinet members and other high-ranking Burmese and Korean officials, while injuring 46 others.

5. According to the announcement by the Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma on 4 November 1983, issued after a thorough and independent investigation conducted by an Enquiry Committee established by the Burmese Government, it has been fully established from the confessions of the captured Korean nationals, captured equipment and other supporting evidence that the bomb attack was the work of saboteurs acting under instructions of North Korean authorities, and that the two captured alive and the one captured dead were identified as a major and two captains of the North Korean Army. On the same day, the Burmese Government severed diplomatic relations with North Korea and withdrew its recognition of the North Korean régime. The Government of the Republic of Korea welcomed these measures taken by the Burmese Government as most appropriate and justified.

6. In this connection, it may be recalled that the acts of terrorism committed by North Korea are not new to the international community. In January 1968, North Korea dispatched a 31-man commando squad to Seoul in an abortive attempt to assassinate the President of the Republic of Korea. In August 1974, a North Korean agent's attempt on the life of the then President resulted in his killing the First Lady instead. More recently, in August 1982, Canadian authorities uncovered a plot by North Korea to have President Chun killed by hired assassins during his State visit to Canada.

7. The Republic of Korea, together with all other peace-loving States of the world, strongly condemns these criminal acts of terrorism committed by North Korea in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and other rules of international law and, in particular, of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, which North Korea acceded to as recently as 1 December 1982.

8. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 34/145 and 36/109, called upon all States to observe and implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, in which all States are called upon, among other things, to fulfil their obligations under international law and to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in acts of terrorism in another State. The Republic of Korea is of the view that the international community, while condemning unequivocally acts of international terrorism as crimes violating all relevant international norms and endangering international peace and security, should further take necessary steps, including punitive measures, to prevent the recurrence of such terrorist acts and eliminate their underlying causes.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/34/37), para. 118.

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