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Eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION: ITEM PROPOSED
BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

QUESTION OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE NORTH KOREAN AND CHINESE
COMMUNIST FORCES AGAINST UNITED NATIONS PRISONERS OF WAR IN KOREA

Letter dated 31 October 1953 from the Chairman of the United States
delegation to the General Assembly, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 31 October 1953

Reference is made to my request of 30 October, 1953 that there be included in the agenda of the present session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Question of atrocities committed by the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces against United Nations prisoners of war in Korea."

In connexion with the above-mentioned request, and in compliance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is enclosed.

(Signed) Henry Cabot LODGE, Jr.
Chairman

53-30369

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Question of atrocities committed by the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces against United Nations prisoners of war in Korea

In the course of the United Nations action in Korea to repel aggression and restore international peace and security in the area, evidence was uncovered at various times of atrocities committed by North Korean and Chinese Communist forces. These atrocities were carried out against Members of United Nations forces as well as against the civilian population in Korea. Extensive and careful investigation has now verified that tens of thousands of United Nations soldiers and Korean civilians, who had been captured by North Korean or Chinese Communist aggressors, subsequently were killed by beatings, deliberately planned starvation, cold-blooded murder, mutilation and torture.

The extent and nature of these atrocities should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, particularly since these atrocities were committed against the forces of United Nations Members engaged, under the authority of United Nations resolutions, in a collective action against aggression which has many elements of continuing concern to the General Assembly.

The United States Government was able only recently to carry the investigation of these atrocities to such point as to warrant submission of this matter to the General Assembly for appropriate consideration.
