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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION TOWARDS A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT OF THE KORAAN PROBLEM AND THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA

Letter dated 20 August 1976 from the representatives of Belgium,
Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Germany
(Federal Republic of), Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Japan,
the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of
America and Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, under rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-first session of an item entitled "Need for constructive dialogue and negotiation towards a peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and the reunification of Korea".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution are attached.

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ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The United Nations General Assembly has endeavoured for over a quarter of a century to promote the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic government in Korea in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. None the less, Korea remains divided and tensions continue. The solution of the Korean question essentially depends upon conciliation and agreement between the South and the North of Korea and upon continued efforts for the maintenance of peace and security in the area.
2. The General Assembly, in its consensus statement adopted in 1973 1/ expressed its satisfaction over the joint communiqué of 4 July 1972 between the South and the North of Korea and urged them to continue their dialogue and to widen many-sided exchanges and co-operation in the spirit of the said communiqué. The subsequent sessions of the General Assembly in 1974 and 1975 further urged that the questions affecting peace and security in Korea and the reunification of Korea be settled by the South-North dialogue and by negotiations among the parties directly concerned.
3. The South-North dialogue, however, remains suspended. There has been no progress in efforts for negotiations on new arrangements among the parties directly concerned to permit the adaptation or replacement of the Armistice Agreement thus enabling the dissolution of the United Nations Command, reduction of tensions and establishment of lasting peace in Korea.
4. On 22 July 1976, the United States made a concrete proposal to meet with the parties directly concerned to seek an agreed new legal structure for the armistice during the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York or elsewhere. In this proposal, it was noted that such a conference could also replace the armistice with more permanent arrangements in any form acceptable to all parties which could ease tensions throughout Asia. This proposal, which included an expressed readiness to begin immediate discussions on issues of procedure and venue, regrettably has not met with a positive response. Indeed, the only response of any kind has been the submission on 16 August 1976 2/ of another confrontational draft resolution for the consideration of the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.
5. Under these circumstances, we believe the General Assembly should encourage once again the continuation of dialogue. The Assembly should urge all concerned to do everything possible to facilitate the resumption of talks and the negotiation of durable arrangements for the maintenance of peace in the Korean peninsula and the achievement of reunification.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/9030), p. 24, item 41.

2/ See A/31/192.

6. For the foregoing reasons, the signatories of this letter request inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Need for constructive dialogue and negotiation towards a peaceful settlement of the Korean problem and the reunification of Korea".
7. In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, a draft resolution is attached.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Proclaiming once more the goal of peaceful reunification of Korea on the basis of the freely expressed will of the Korean people,

Reiterating its urgent desire that progress be made towards that goal by dialogue between the South and the North of Korea as envisaged in the joint communiqué issued by them on 4 July 1972 and in accordance with its own consensus statement of 28 November 1973, 3/

Considering that the dissolution of the United Nations Command accompanied by arrangements for the adaptation or replacement of the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953, 4/ which has for 23 years been an essential factor in the maintenance of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula, could facilitate reconciliation between the South and the North of Korea,

Believing that agreement to that end could best be achieved by direct negotiations among the South and the North of Korea and the other parties directly concerned,

1. Declares that, in the interest of the Korean people, the highest priority should be given to the establishment of conditions which will lead to national reconciliation and a lasting peace in Korea in order to achieve its reunification;
2. Calls upon the South and the North of Korea to resume promptly their dialogue in order to achieve by negotiation the settlement of their outstanding problems;
3. Urges the South and the North of Korea and the other parties directly concerned to enter into early negotiations with the objective of permitting the dissolution of the United Nations Command as soon as possible by adapting the Armistice Agreement or by finding a new basis to replace the existing Agreement with more permanent arrangements;
4. Calls upon all concerned to exercise the utmost restraint so as to create an atmosphere conducive to peace and dialogue.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/9030), p. 24, item 41.

4/ See Official Records of the Security Council, Eighth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1953, document S/3079; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by a note of the Secretary-General (A/2451).