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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 30 October 1984 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations was addressed to the President of the Security Council. In accordance with the request therein contained, the letter is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 30 October 1984 from the Permanent Observer of
the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to document S/16743, dated 17 September 1984, which contains a letter from the Permanent Observer of North Korea on the report of the United Nations Command (UNC) and the annex attached to it on the terrorist bomb attack in Rangoon in October last year.

I should like to draw your attention to the following, which shows that the North Korean allegations in the above document are nothing but their usual political propaganda aimed at shifting blame on to others for heightening tensions on the Korean peninsula and, in particular, for the crimes North Korea committed in Rangoon last October.

1. North Korea's allegation against the legality of the United Nations Command is patently groundless. UNC was established in Korea pursuant to Security Council resolution 84 (1950) of 7 July 1950, with contingents from 16 States Members of the United Nations and the Republic of Korea participating, in order to repel North Korea's unprovoked armed aggression on the Republic of Korea.

In the resolution mentioned above, UNC is requested, among others, to "provide the Security Council with reports as appropriate on the course of action taken under the unified command." Based on this request, UNC has submitted its report annually in recent years, the latest one (S/16694) on 11 June 1984.

The legality of UNC and its obligation to report to the Security Council are thus unquestionable, as the relevant Security Council resolutions remain valid.

In fact, for the past 30 years, North Korea has accepted the legality of UNC, despite North Korea's repeated allegations against it, by participating, together with UNC, in the meetings of the Military Armistice Commission, which was established under the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953.

2. The full investigation report submitted to the Secretary-General by the Burmese Government (A/39/456/Add.1) squarely places all the responsibility on North Korea for the brutal terrorist bomb attack in Rangoon on 9 October last year against the presidential party of the Republic of Korea on a state visit to Burma, which claimed the lives of 17 Korean officials, including those of four Cabinet members. Despite North Korea's shamelessly persistent attempts to escape from its responsibility, the world then condemned strongly and still condemns this deplorable act of international terrorism directed against a head of State and diplomatic mission on a state visit and the sovereignty of the host State. The international community must be called upon to take further measures to protect diplomatic missions and prevent international terrorism in the interest of the maintenance of peace and security and peaceful settlement of conflicts.

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3. The prevailing tensions on the Korean peninsula are attributable to North Korea's unchanging basic scheme to unify the country under its terms, using any means, including use of force. UNC reports have extensively covered the serious violations of the Armistice Agreement by North Korea in recent years, which include countless military provocations, armed infiltrations, digging of invasion tunnels across the Demilitarized Zone, terrorist attacks and continuing military build-up and war preparations.

In spite of all these continuing provocations and systematic use of violence by North Korea, the Republic of Korea has not only exercised great restraint in the interest of peace, security and prosperity in the region but also has taken a series of initiatives to reduce tension, resume dialogue and facilitate the process of reconciliation and accommodation between the two parts of Korea.

4. The Republic of Korea believes that inter-Korean negotiation is the only realistic and practical means to resolve peacefully the problems arising from the 39-year-old division. North Korea is therefore called upon to return to the negotiating table with the Republic of Korea, so that the two sides may agree to take measures to remove existing distrust and antagonism, reduce tension, promote reconciliation between them and pave the way for ultimate reunification of the country.

It is self-evident that the South and the North of Korea, the two parties directly concerned with the problem of Korea, should first reach basic understanding and agreement through dialogue and negotiation on the normalization of relations and peace arrangements between the two parts of Korea, on the basis of which other parties concerned could be involved for wider consultation and agreement.

I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kyung-Won KIM
Ambassador
