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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 20 November 1989 from the Permanent Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations was addressed to the President of the Security Council. In accordance with the request contained in the letter, the text is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 20 November 1989 from the Permanent Observer for the  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the document dated 9 November 1989 (S/20956) from the Permanent Observer for south Korea to the United Nations with regard to the principle of universality and the membership of south Korea in the United Nations.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has stated time and again its position on the question of the membership of one or two parts of Korea in the United Nations, and the position that Korea should be admitted to the United Nations with one State name and one seat after its reunification has been achieved remains unchanged. Separate or simultaneous membership of Korea in the United Nations in the state of division of Korea will only help to aggravate tension and mistrust on the Korean peninsula, thus leading to further confrontation between the two parts of Korea in international forums and to the international recognition of the division of Korea.

The principle of universality contended so loudly by south Korea cannot be applied to Korea where the question of reunification arises as a result of temporary division. The Korean nation, which has existed for over 5,000 years as a homogeneous nation with the same spoken and written language and customs of life on one and the same territory, remains divided temporarily by foreign forces through a military demarcation line, not by a border line, unlike other States.

The General Assembly, at its tenth session (552nd plenary meeting), adopted resolution 918 (X) which "requests the Security Council to consider, in the light of the general opinion in favour of the widest possible membership of the United Nations, the pending applications for membership of all those eighteen countries about which no problem of unification arises". It is for this reason that the request for membership of south Korea in the United Nations was rejected. The Security Council at its 1842nd meeting, on 26 September 1975, recognized that the request for membership in the United Nations submitted by south Korea was contrary to resolution 918 (X) adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth session, and the decision on the Korean question, adopted at its twenty-eighth session (2181st plenary meeting), and did not even place it on its agenda. In the light of such actions at the General Assembly and the Security Council and current developments on the Korean peninsula, more than 60 delegations, in their statements during the general debate at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, have expressed their support for the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiations and for the participation of one delegation from a unified Korea in the United Nations. The ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade in September this year, expressed its support for Korea's reunification through dialogue and negotiations. a/

Multi-channel dialogue and negotiations are now in progress between the two parts of Korea and there are good prospects for the early reunification of the Korean nation. It is our strong belief that the membership of Korea in the United Nations is an internal matter to be discussed by the Korean people themselves in the dialogue and negotiations. South Korea has also agreed to discuss the question of the membership in the United Nations and foreign relations in the negotiations between the two parts of Korea. It is, therefore, contradictory to make a claim for membership of the two parts of Korea in the United Nations, simultaneously or separately, before the north and the south of Korea have come to an agreement on this matter.

In order to justify its attempts to get south Korea admitted to the United Nations at any cost and give an impression to the people that the world community is in favour of the admission of south Korea into the United Nations, the south Korean delegation has even distorted statements by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the matter, which have been categorically rejected. Many distorted facts are still found in document S/20956 submitted by the Permanent Observer for south Korea to the United Nations.

I believe that States Members of the United Nations, in particular members of the Security Council, will consider the membership of Korea in the United Nations in the direction of helping the Korean people to achieve their long-cherished desire, the reunification of Korea, and ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

It would be highly appreciated if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon  
Ambassador

Notes

a/ S/20870, annex.

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