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- (c) Withdrawal of United States and all other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations;
- (d) Need to put an end to the discussion in the United Nations on the unification of Korea 1

Chairman: Mr. Piero VINCI (Italy).

AGENDA ITEM 25

The Korean question (*continued*):

- (a) Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (A/7212, A/C.1/966, 967, 968 and Corr.1 and 2, 970-972, 975, A/C.1/L.453);
- (b) Dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (A/7182 and Add.1-4, A/C.1/966, 967, 968 and Corr.1 and 2, 970, 972, 975, A/C.1/L.455);
- (c) Withdrawal of United States and all other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations (A/7184 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.1/966, 967, 968 and Corr.1 and 2, 970-972, 975, A/C.1/L.454);
- (d) Need to put an end to the discussion in the United Nations on the unification of Korea (A/7227)

1. Mr. MALIK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (*translated from Russian*): In stating the position of its Government on questions relating to Korea, the USSR delegation feels in duty bound to begin by expressing its deep regret that this time again the General Assembly is to discuss these questions without the participation of representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. Together with their followers, the imperialist forces in the United Nations which are inimical to this socialist State have once again done their unholy work and prevented the First Committee from adopting a just decision, a decision that would have been in line with the Charter and United Nations practice, to invite representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take part in the discussion of the Korean question at the present session of the General Assembly.

3. The delegations of the socialist countries and of many African and Asian States, for their part, made strenuous efforts at this session to bring about favourable conditions for considering questions relating to Korea, and particularly to have a timely invitation to the session issued to representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. A number of other delegations, however, allowed themselves to be led by the United States and its allies in aggression against the Korean people. When the invitation proposal [A/C.1/L.422 and Add.1-4] was put to the vote, they failed to summon up sufficient courage to choose the side of truth and justice, the Charter, and the established United Nations practice of hearing all interested parties.

4. Naturally, any profound examination of questions relating to Korea will be greatly hampered by the absence of representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who would have expounded the views of the patriotic national forces of the Korean people and acquainted the Assembly with the actual situation in the country. Let me say once again that this is a matter for regret.

5. In expounding the Soviet Union's view point on the questions relating to Korea, my delegation would begin with an item placed on the agenda of the twenty-third session at the request of the socialist and many African and Asian States—the item entitled “Withdrawal of United States and all other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations”.

6. The question of ending the unlawful occupation of South Korea by United States and other foreign forces is of major importance for the destinies of the Korean people and the cause of peace in the Far East. It is also of great importance for the United Nations itself, since the foreign troops occupying South Korea are justifying their unlawful presence by using the flag and the name of the United Nations, and thereby impairing the prestige and authority of the Organization.

7. Withdrawal of all foreign forces from South Korea and cessation of imperialist interference in the affairs of the Korean people are directly related to the maintenance of international peace and security. There is urgent need for the United Nations to take measures to remove this major obstacle which for nearly twenty years has been preventing the establishment of unity and peace in Korea and the elimination of one of the worst danger spots in Asia.

8. Recent events in and around Korea and the increased tension in the area resulting from the acts of hostile provocation by United States and South Korean troops with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot but cause concern to all States which are interested

in lessening international tension and strengthening international peace and security. These events make plain for the *n*th time that the presence of the troops of the United States and some of its military allies in the territory of South Korea and the expansion of their military activities in South Korea and in its territorial waters create a risk of an outbreak of hostilities in the Far East which would be fraught with serious consequences.

9. In its sincere desire to maintain peace in the land of Korea, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its memoranda of 18 and 25 July 1968 and in its statement of 21 September 1968 [A/C.1/971, A/C.1/970 and A/C.1/966] has earnestly appealed to all peace-loving States and peoples to give their closest attention to the serious situation, fraught with a danger of war in Korea, which has been created in that area by the aggressive acts and constant provocations on the part of the United States armed forces. In its statement of 21 September 1968 [A/C.1/966], the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remarks in this connexion:

“Today peace in Korea is maintained only by the persevering efforts on the part of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.”

That is an important and responsible statement. The delegations attending this session of the General Assembly would do well to ponder its meaning.

10. The documents placed by that Government at the disposal of the States Members of the United Nations in connexion with the consideration at this session of questions relating to Korea contain a vast number of incontrovertible facts regarding the intensification and escalation of provocative acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea along the Armistice Demarcation Line being committed by the United States armed forces and, at their instigation, by the troops of the Seoul puppet régime.

11. I shall, if I may, cite only a few of these facts.

12. In its Memorandum of 25 July 1968 [A/C.1/970], the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea states, *inter alia*:

“Various kinds of military provocations mentioned above and other acts of violation of the Armistice Agreement committed by the U.S. imperialist aggressors against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the period from the Korean armistice to July 20, 1968 numbered more than 59,800 cases, counting only those officially protested against by our side at the Military Armistice Commission.”

13. This refers only to those hostile acts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning which official protests were lodged by the Korean side with the Military Armistice Commission. Such acts are being committed under the cover of the United Nations flag and in the name of this international Organization, whose mission under its Charter is to maintain international peace and security, and not to serve as a screen behind which imperialist forces may carry out military provocations by the thousand.

14. The multifarious armed provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea carried out, I repeat, under the cover of the United Nations flag have dangerously increased in scale and intensity, particularly since the beginning of the current year.

15. In January 1968 the United States military deliberately provoked a very serious military conflict, which Senator Symington has also mentioned. The Navy spy ship *Pueblo* was sent into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to commit hostile acts against the country's sovereignty and security. The spies and peeping Toms in question were caught in the act by the watchful frontier guards of the People's Republic.

16. This incident was followed by numerous other hostile provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on land and on sea. Their purpose was crystal-clear: to divert the attention of world opinion from the scandalous failure of United States spies in Korea.

17. In this connexion, I would cite a passage from the official Memorandum of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 25 July 1968:

“On January 24, 1968, the day after the capture of the armed spy ship ‘Pueblo’, and successively on January 26, 30 and 31, the U.S. imperialists fired thousands of bullets and shells into the Demilitarized Zone and the areas of our side by mobilizing numerous armed forces.”

18. Surely the meaning of this action is obvious. Its purpose was to take revenge for the failure of the spies and bring pressure to bear on those whose house those uninvited guests had entered. The Memorandum then reads:

“They committed provocative acts, dragging various guns including 106.7-mm mortars and even ‘M-47’ heavy tanks into the Demilitarized Zone on February 4, 5 and 6.

“The U.S. imperialist aggressors”—I am still quoting from the same document—“launched open armed attacks against the sentry posts of our side in the Demilitarized Zone by mobilizing their armed groups on February 13, 16 and 18.

“On February 7 and 18, military airplanes intruded in the territorial air of our side in formations to perpetrate hostile acts, and on February 16 armed vessels intruded into the coastal waters of our side to commit provocative acts.”

19. To sum up, according to official information from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, during the relatively brief period from 24 January to 20 March 1968 the United States and South Korean armed forces perpetrated over 2,000 acts of military provocation on land alone, or an average of twenty-five a day, and fired on the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on nearly 400 occasions, to a total of more than 40,000 rounds of rifle and gun fire.

20. Such are the facts concerning the monstrous provocations being systematically committed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the name of the United Nations by the United States military command, which (as everyone is well aware) is in fact the master in South Korea.

21. This intensification of hostile activity against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is seen to be particularly sinister and dangerous in the light of the simultaneous action by the United States to increase the number of its troops and their equipment and also to speed and expand its military preparations in South Korea.

22. Acts of armed provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on land and sea are always accompanied by a campaign of slanderous accusations against that country. The purpose of such propaganda is to create the impression that South Korea is under a "threat from the North" and justify the growing number of United States and South Korean troops in South Korea and the intensification of military preparations.

23. The question naturally arises: are not all these acts of armed provocation and numerous violations of the Armistice Agreement deliberately planned, with a view to making the situation in Korea extremely acute and thereby perhaps justify before the world and the people of the United States the intolerably protracted occupation of South Korea by United States troops, an occupation which is continuing still, although the Armistice Agreement was concluded fifteen years ago? Many facts indicate that this is so.

24. In recent months, especially since the *Pueblo* incident, the United States military command, along with expanding its military provocations, has considerably increased the number of its troops in South Korea and imported a large quantity of armaments. According to various sources, some 200 United States bomber aircraft have been sent to South Korea and about 12,000 officers and men have been transferred there from the United States, Japan, and United States military bases in the Pacific. A large number of naval vessels, including mine-layers and patrol ships, have also been transferred to Korean waters. Again and again, use is made of the United Nations flag to cover up these sinister military operations. Yet it must be entirely clear to any honest and impartial observer that the United Nations does not, and cannot, have anything to do with this rising hysteria of United States and South Korean military preparations. They are being made solely for purposes of imperialist expansion, and not to strengthen the peace or further the interests of the United Nations.

25. At the same time, large-scale measures are being taken to heighten the military preparedness of the South Korean army and to equip it with modern weapons. Thus, the United States has lent \$100 million to the South Korean puppet régime for further expansion of its military preparations. Steps have also been taken further to increase the strength of the South Korean army, although it already numbers 600,000. It will readily be seen that for a country such as South Korea that number is disproportionately high; and yet it is being raised further. New combat divisions, tank brigades and air squadrons have been formed. The duration of army service has been extended and a so-called Homeland Reserve Force, 2.5 million strong, is being created. Large scale projects involving the construction and reconstruction of military bases, airfields, ports, rocket launching sites, strategic highways, etc., are being carried out.

26. Recently, according to reports of foreign press agencies, there took place in South Korea the largest military manoeuvres in recent years by United States and South Korean armed forces, under the grandiloquent and obviously meant to be fear-inspiring name of "Flying Tiger". For the most part these manoeuvres took place along the Demarcation Line, close to the 38th parallel, and at night. Furthermore, as reported by the Japanese agency Kiodo Tsushin, even "the use of nuclear and bacteriological weapons was simulated" during these manoeuvres. The object, according to the same reports, was to train troops to effect river crossings, organize and carry out air-lifts of large military contingents and give instruction in the use of guided missiles with nuclear warheads. There can be no doubt that this hostile action constitutes open provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

27. In organizing armed incidents involving that country with a view to maintaining tension in the area the United States also resorts to such measures as concentrating large numbers of naval vessels in threatening proximity to Korea's coastline. Following the *Pueblo* incident the United States command immediately concentrated a large naval force close to the coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a force which included the aircraft-carrier *Enterprise*. According to press reports, quite recently—in early December—a squadron of the United States Seventh Fleet, composed of the aircraft-carrier *Hancock* and four mine-layers, was directed to the Eastern coast of Korea.

28. No one who is sincerely interested in the maintenance of peace in Korea and the surrounding region can fail to be concerned at the diplomatic and political action undertaken by Washington in the last few months, action which can only be interpreted as intended to support the militant mood of the Seoul authorities and incite them to further dangerous steps. That is certainly the meaning of the far-reaching promises that Mr. Vance, the United States Special Envoy, made to the South Korean puppet clique when he visited Seoul in January 1968, and repeated later in the joint United States-South Korean communiqué signed at Honolulu on 18 April 1968. The United States has undertaken to supply large additional military aid to the South Korean authorities in carrying out military mobilization, including support in accordance with the United States-South Korean military agreement of 1953 if the Seoul clique should make war on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This was followed by a meeting, on 6 May, between the United States and Seoul ministers of defence, at which the plans for and progress of the military preparations in South Korea were discussed in detail.

29. Surely these facts make it obvious that, unless such dangerous military provocation on the part of foreign armed forces in South Korea and in Korean waters is stopped, and unless United States and all other foreign troops are withdrawn, events may take such a course that a new and serious military conflict may take place in Korea? What such a conflict may mean for world peace is also self-evident. The flag and the name of the United Nations may once again be dishonoured and trampled underfoot by aggressors.

30. It may be asked why the United States is so reluctant to withdraw its forces from South Korea. The answer is not

what Senator Symington told us it is. The answer is quite different, and very simple. The true reason why the United States wants to go on occupying South Korea is not the alleged threat from the North, but something else. The United States has transformed the southern part of Korea into a military-strategic jumping off place, a vast military base for a struggle against the Korean people and other peoples in the region which are defending their lawful right to an independent sovereign existence against attacks by imperialist and neo-colonialist forces. That is the crux of the matter. In this respect, the occupation of South Korea by United States troops is fraught with far-reaching and dangerous consequences for the cause of peace and security in Asia.

31. The South Korean puppet régime is being made to play an increasingly active role in the military aggression in Asia. At the dictates of its foreign masters, it sent 50,000 South Korean soldiers to shed their blood, serve as cannon fodder and die for alien interests in the aggressive war being waged by the United States against the freedom-loving and heroic people of Viet-Nam. Such facts cannot be regarded as anything other than a gross violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement. They testify to the intention of the United States, under the cover of the United Nations flag, to make use of South Korea and its armed forces in that aggressive military-political system which the United States has long been endeavouring to establish in the Far East as part of a far-reaching long-term plan. Some fifteen years ago, immediately upon the signing of the Armistice Agreement concerning Korea, the United States concluded a military treaty with the South Korean puppet régime.

32. As everyone knows, a treaty was concluded in 1966 between Japan and South Korea, not without participation and pressure by the United States; as there already existed a military treaty, termed a mutual security agreement, between the United States and Japan, this new treaty made one more link in the closed chain of military commitments in that part of Asia. This is the triangle of strategic alliance treaties in the Far East on which Washington's military and political system in the region is based. It undoubtedly also furnishes the reason why, when the First Committee began its work at this session, the Japanese delegation laboured so actively and persistently to prevent a representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from taking part in the discussion of the Korean question.

33. The South Korean régime is also being increasingly drawn into the activities of the so-called Asian and Pacific Council (ASPAC), which formally was set up to promote the economic development of Asian countries. If we consider the membership of that organization, however, and the military alliances of its members with the United States and the United Kingdom, and through these with the NATO and SEATO military blocs, we shall see at once that an effort is being made to transform ASPAC into a new kind of military alliance in Asia.

34. The occupation of South Korea by United States forces is also being used for blatant interference in the Korean people's affairs and for suppressing that people's ardent desire for peace, unity and sovereignty.

35. The occupation forces have in fact been used to impose on the Korean people a régime of neo-colonialist oppression and exploitation.

36. The Seoul puppets, who are kept in power by foreign bayonets, are the agents of their foreign masters, whose orders they meekly obey. They have nothing in common with the genuine national interests and aspirations of the Korean people. The foreign intruders, who wreak their will in South Korea, are making use of them to suppress ruthlessly the South Korean population which is beginning a just and patriotic struggle for independent national existence and for the peaceful unification of its native land. Those patriotic inhabitants of South Korea who oppose the rule of terror of the suborned puppet clique and the foreign intruders and who want unity and peace in Korea are subjected to barbarous persecution and sometimes to physical extermination.

37. In order to camouflage the criminal character of this policy and practice in South Korea, the imperialist propaganda organs disseminate the cynical and slanderous lie that the patriotic struggle of the South Koreans is "subversive activity" on the part of unknown persons "sent from the North". As we can see from even the preliminary discussion of the Korean question at this session—in the General Committee, in plenary session of the General Assembly and during the initial period of the First Committee's work—official representatives of certain Member States, such as Australia and New Zealand, have joined in voicing this slanderous charge.

38. The foreign occupation of South Korea is the principal obstacle to its unification. This fact is now self-evident, and only those who participate in the occupation try to deny it. The withdrawal of United States and other foreign troops is an essential prerequisite for the unification of Korea. It alone can bring about a more normal situation and create the elementary conditions enabling the Korean people freely to express its will regarding the unification of its country in accordance with its national aspirations.

39. The propaganda efforts of the countries whose troops are occupying South Korea to justify the presence of those troops by the alleged need to protect South Korea from "attacks from the North" are a clumsy and unconvincing attempt to misrepresent the peace-loving policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to a peaceful solution of the Korean question—the question of the unification of Korea. The policy of that socialist State is crystal-clear and based on principle. It is a policy of peace and peaceful unification.

40. That this policy remains in force was reaffirmed in the Memorandum of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 18 July 1968 [A/C.1/971], in which that Government declares:

"There is no change, whether in the past or now, in the fundamental stand of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in maintaining peace in Korea and solving to the end the question of the unification of Korea independently on a democratic basis and by peaceful means".

I would lay especial stress on the words, "and by peaceful means".

41. In the light of that official declaration, Senator Symington's assertions today that the Government of the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea has some imaginary "warlike intentions" with regard to South Korea are, to speak mildly, unfounded and divorced from reality.

42. In consistently advocating the unification of Korea and restoration of peace in that country, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has submitted, at various stages, specific and reasonable proposals for a democratic and peaceful settlement of the Korean question. These proposals are inspired by a truly patriotic concern for the destinies of the Korean nation and the interests of peace in Korea and the Far East as a whole.

43. In its memoranda of 18 and 25 July 1968, which I mentioned before, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea puts forward a democratic and peaceful programme for settling the Korean question and achieving unification of the country. This Government holds that, after the withdrawal of all foreign forces from South Korea, the unification of South and North should be achieved without any outside interference, independently by the Korean people itself, on a democratic basis.

44. Guided by the lofty principle of defending the interests of the Korean people, that Government proposes the establishment of a unified democratic central Government of Korea by means of free general elections in the North and in the South, such elections to be held by the Korean people itself, without any interference by outside forces, and after the withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of South Korea.

45. After convincingly demonstrating the absurdity of the allegations about the imaginary "threat from the North", which are being advanced to justify continued occupation of South Korea by United States troops, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposes that, after the withdrawal of United States and other foreign forces, the level of armed forces in North and South Korea should be reduced to 100,000 or even less respectively, and that a peace agreement renouncing the use of force against each other should be concluded between North and South Korea. While making this proposal, that Government unilaterally reduced its own armed forces by 80,000.

46. These reasonable, peaceable and realistic proposals were, however, turned down by the South Korean authorities at Washington's behest.

47. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has also been perseveringly seeking other ways of peacefully unifying the country. It has advanced a number of proposals aimed at settling various urgent problems concerning the Korean people as a whole and at a gradual approach to full unification by means of various transitional measures. These last include proposals to form a Confederation of North and South Korea while maintaining the existing political systems in both parts of the country, to establish and develop economic and cultural exchanges and mutual visits between North and South, or, as a minimum step towards establishing relations, at least to arrange for postal exchange between the two parts of the country.

48. Showing its concern for the fate of thousands upon thousands of its compatriots in the South who are forced to

emigrate to other countries in search of work lest they starve, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has offered to take in unemployed persons and orphans from South Korea and to provide them with work and means of subsistence.

49. This Government has also reaffirmed its consent in case of need to an international conference of interested countries to promote a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. It has proclaimed its readiness to consult about any proposals, no matter who may put them forward, if such proposals are based on the principle of rejecting outside interference and achieving the unification of the country independently.

50. All these rational, humane and practical proposals for the unification of Korea were also rejected by the South Korean puppet régime.

51. These facts demonstrate eloquently and convincingly that the presence of foreign occupation troops in South Korea not only makes impossible a peaceful unification of the country, but even prevents the implementation of the simplest and most elementary measures conducive to that noble goal. So long as the foreign occupation continues, the Korean people will be denied the opportunity to exercise their legitimate right of unifying its native land and managing its domestic affairs as it sees fit.

52. This main reason for Korea's division, this national calamity and source of the sufferings of the Korean people—the occupation of South Korea by foreign troops—must be removed without further delay.

53. So long as foreign troops remain in South Korea, there can be no lasting peace in Korea or the Far East. This fact is causing legitimate concern to all those States which sincerely want to see an easing of tension and a strengthening of international peace and security in the Far East.

54. The United Nations is in a position to help to ease the tension in that area and to bring about favourable conditions for solving the fundamental national problem of the Korean people—the unification of its country. To that end, the General Assembly at its twenty-third session must adopt a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of United States and all other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations. The socialist States Members of the United Nations and some African and Asian countries, as the Mongolian representative said earlier today [1636th meeting], have submitted an appropriate draft resolution on the matter (A/C.1/L.454). Its sponsors are profoundly convinced that the draft fully meets the exigencies of the situation.

55. Under the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that all American and other foreign military personnel deployed in South Korea under the title of "United Nations Forces" should be withdrawn in their entirety, with their weapons and equipment, within the six months following the adoption of the resolution. This is the principal provision of the draft resolution, and it relates, to the essence of the question.

56. The USSR delegation calls on all other delegations to support the draft resolution, submitted by the socialist,

African and Asian States, on the withdrawal of United States and all other foreign troops from South Korea.

57. A positive decision of the question by the General Assembly will represent a substantial contribution on the part of the United Nations to the cause of easing international tension and strengthening the peace. Moreover, such a decision will be fully in accord with the legitimate interests and wishes of the Korean people.

58. Mr. JIMENEZ (Philippines): The Korean question is again before our Committee. My delegation welcomes a discussion of this question as it affords us an opportunity to review the developments in Korea.

59. The political stability and economic growth in the Republic of Korea have created such an atmosphere of confidence and contentment among the people from that part of Korea that it would be most difficult, if not impossible, to sow seeds of disloyalty against the duly constituted authorities of the Republic.

60. The Republic of Korea, since its establishment in 1948, has shown its capability to exist as a free and sovereign State. It has demonstrated, through free and periodic elections, its adherence to democratic principles and respect for the wishes of its people. It has enhanced its national and international prestige; broadened the scope of its foreign policy, particularly its relationship with Asian and African States; strengthened mutual co-operation in economic, social and cultural fields with Asian nations; and established or agreed to establish diplomatic and/or consular relations with eighty-seven States, of which eighty-five are Member States of the United Nations. It is a party to 328 treaties and agreements, and is a member of all but one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

61. Aside from political stability, the Republic of Korea has attained a viable economy by expanding its domestic, as well as its international trade. In 1967, the Korean economy had attained a high rate of growth, exceeding its planned target. International confidence in the stability of the Republic of Korea is reflected in an increased foreign investment. There is a significant reduction in the degree of unemployment and under-employment in 1967. The real national product expanded in 1967 by 8.9 per cent to 995.43 billion won. Real *per capita* income has been estimated to have increased from about \$100 in 1966 to about \$106 in 1967.

62. The Korean economy has undergone a sustained and rapid growth in all sectors. Manufacturing industry, which accelerated the economic growth from 1962 to 1966, attained an average growth of 15.7 per cent a year. Commodity exports during 1967 totalled \$320 million, an increase of 28 per cent over \$250 million in 1966 and almost ten times the 1960 exports of \$32.9 million. Expansion in the manufacture of fertilizer, cement, iron and steel products, and electrical appliances, contributed in large measures to the development of Korean economy.

63. The report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) [A/7212] is again before us for consideration.

64. It will be recalled that last year, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2269 (XXII), UNCURK was given a

fresh mandate to intensify its efforts to achieve the United Nations objectives in Korea—to bring about by peaceful means the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government, and full restoration of peace and security in the area—and to continue to carry out the tasks previously assigned to it.

65. While UNCURK and its Committee were able to keep developments in the Republic of Korea under constant review, to maintain close contact with officials of the Republic of Korea, and to undertake field trips, their efforts to carry out the objectives of the United Nations in Korea have been limited by the continued refusal of the authorities of the North Korean régime to recognize the competence and authority of the United Nations to deal with the Korean question.

66. Unification is the dream of all peoples which in the last world war were divided by the tragic forces of military necessity and political expediency. This forced division of nations can only sow the seeds of future conflicts. A divided Korea against the will of the Korean people cannot long endure. There should be a unified Korea, to be achieved not through force, intimidation and violence, but through peaceful and democratic processes.

67. What are the positions of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the question of unification? The Republic of Korea is committed to give its full co-operation to all United Nations efforts for the earliest achievement of unification in accordance with the principles reaffirmed in numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, and considers UNCURK to be an important organ for implementing United Nations resolutions on Korea. On the other hand, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to reject any role for the United Nations in the solution of the Korean question, and proposes instead the dissolution of UNCURK and the withdrawal of United Nations forces from the Republic of Korea.

68. The leaders of the Republic of Korea have reaffirmed on numerous occasions their support for the solution of the Korean question through the United Nations. On 1 February 1968, the President of the Republic of Korea declared:

“We wish to accomplish our cherished territorial unification as early as possible, but we do not want hostilities between brethren to be the measure to attain unification.” [Ibid., *para.* 7.]

69. On the other hand, the pronouncements and actions of the North Korean leaders belie their professed dedication to the idea of peaceful unification on a democratic basis. In his report to the Korean Workers' Party conference on 5 October 1966, Premier Kim Il Sung stated:

“Comrades, for the unification of our country and the victory of the Korean revolution, it is necessary to strengthen the revolutionary forces and develop the revolutionary struggle in South Korea, while actively promoting the revolution and construction in the North . . . The revolutionary movement in South Korea must be developed properly, combining diverse forms and

ways of struggle—political and economic struggles, violent and non-violent struggles, legal and illegal struggles—to suit the subjective and objective situations obtaining. . . . Experience in the South Korean revolutionary movement shows that neither the growth of the revolutionary forces nor successful progress in the revolutionary movement can be expected there unless there is the unified leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party deeply rooted among the workers, peasants and progressive intellectuals.”

70. An article in *Kulloja*, which is the paper of the Korean Workers Party, on the need for a Marxist-Leninist party in South Korea stated in January 1967:

“In order to crush the anti-revolutionary forces, we must first of all build a strong Marxist-Leninist party and formulate our basic policies on our revolutionary movement in South Korea. . . . In South Korea today, our mass struggle should first be concentrated on the economic and political fight, expanding it gradually to other fields. Our past experience tells us that in our fight for the revolution, we must resort to many methods—legal, semi-legal, and illegal. In our revolutionary work in South Korea, we must use a combination of passive methods and methods of force when necessary.”

71. The so-called popular “struggle” allegedly being waged against “Fascist rule” had long been a feature of North Korean propaganda and the use of the phrase “great revolutionary event” as a euphemism for unification dates back to August 1964. Pyongyang media have been speaking of “armed guerrilla struggle” in the South following the assassination attempt against President Park of the Republic of Korea by a group of North Korean agents on 21 January 1968 and has been making extravagant claims suggesting an incipient general uprising in South Korea. It has been attributing subversive activities to South Korean “patriots”. But the North Korean régime has failed dismally in its attempts to inspire the people from the South to revolt. It is now aware that the South Korean masses do not want a revolution.

72. This defiant and belligerent attitude on the part of the North Korean régime has been aggravated by its renewed aggressive acts against the Republic of Korea, which have no doubt greatly increased tension in the area and have created more difficulties than in the past for the achievement of the peaceful reunification of Korea. This fact is borne out by the UNCURK report that “several significant incidents have occurred in the Republic of Korea and off the Korean coast, which involve a threat to the security of the Republic and to international peace.” [*Ibid.*, para. 49.]

73. The United Nations Command has reported that from 1 August 1967 to 21 August 1968, incidents that occurred in the vicinity of the demilitarized zone resulted in 129 United Nations Command personnel killed and 288 wounded and 154 North Koreans killed, 19 wounded and 15 apprehended. Other incidents were reported to have occurred off the Korean coast involving attacks on South Korean fishing boats and their crews by North Korean patrol boats.

74. A most dangerous situation has been created in the area since the Armistice of 1953 when, on 31 October

1968, the North Korean régime dispatched communist guerrillas into the Samchock and Uljin areas on the eastern coast of the Republic of Korea in an attempt to establish key launching bases for guerrilla warfare and to start a Viet-Cong-style guerrilla war in South Korea. Atrocities were committed and 18 South Korean civilians, including old men, women and small children, were indiscriminately and mercilessly killed. There are now five captured infiltrators, two of whom accused Premier Kim Il Sung of having duped them into the suicidal invasion of the south. Officials of South Korea now estimate the total of these communist infiltrators at 90 to 95, 67 of whom were killed. These violations were only a part of a larger campaign of subversion and guerrilla warfare launched by North Korea to harass the Republic of Korea.

75. The North Korean régime has reiterated its proposals on steps towards unification: North-South negotiations, a non-aggression pact between North and South, reduction of armed forces, economic and cultural exchanges, and an international conference of countries concerned. These proposals are apparently aimed at influencing the debate in the United Nations and to cover up their aggressive designs against the Republic of Korea.

76. My delegation is not, therefore, surprised that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is now demanding the dissolution of UNCURK and the withdrawal of what it calls “foreign troops” from Korea. It must have been encouraged by its allies, which see in such dissolution and withdrawal the success of North Korean efforts at harassing the Republic of Korea. According to UNCURK’s report, the presence of the political and military arms of the United Nations in the Republic of Korea, namely UNCURK and the United Nations Command, “contribute to the preservation of peace in the area”. [*Ibid.*, para. 14.]

77. It cannot be denied that the presence of United Nations peace-keeping forces in sensitive areas of the world has helped maintain peace and security, and that the peace-keeping force or United Nations presence can be effective only with the consent and co-operation of the State or States concerned. We all know that the United Nations forces are in South Korea pursuant to Security Council resolutions 83 (1950) of 27 June 1950 and 84 (1950) of 7 July 1950, with the consent of the Republic of Korea, “to repel the armed attack” by the North Koreans and “to restore international peace and security in the area”. Accordingly, those United Nations forces can only be withdrawn either at the request of the Republic of Korea or whenever the conditions for a lasting settlement formulated by the General Assembly have been achieved. My delegation is, therefore, surprised to hear from responsible delegations that keep on harping about respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and faithful observance of the mandate of the world Organization, that the United Nations forces should be now withdrawn in their entirety from Korea and that there should be “no further discussion of the Korean question” in the United Nations. Has the Republic of Korea requested the withdrawal of the United Nations forces from its territory? Has the United Nations achieved its objectives?

78. That argument recalls to mind recent events in another place, another time. A Member State suffered the ex-

perience of troops of its allies entering its territory without invitation, and against the will of its people. Those troops are still there, and every indication points to the possibility that they will stay there for a long, long time. My delegation fails to see the consistency and the logic of the position of those States involved in that venture which now tell us that United Nations forces should withdraw from South Korea, where they went on the invitation of the legitimate Government and where they obviously are not overstaying their welcome.

79. My delegation believes that only the continued presence of the United Nations forces in Korea could deter the North Korean régime from intensifying its aggressive and subversive war against the Republic of Korea. In my intervention in this Committee at the twenty-first session on 14 December 1966 I stated [*1487th meeting, para. 5*] that a withdrawal of the United Nations forces would also jeopardize the general security of the Asia-Pacific area. We cannot now afford to have more troubles in our part of the world. We from that region are confronted with a serious security problem because most of us, being newly independent and relatively weak, have not yet developed sufficient defensive capability to deter the forces of aggression and subversion which threaten to run rampant in the area. The presence of United Nations forces in Korea is an effective and significant factor in helping preserve the hard-won peace in that country and its environs. That argument remains valid and, even if for that reason alone, my delegation would oppose any proposal to withdraw United Nations forces from Korea.

80. We are told that the unification of Korea should be left to the Korean people alone in accordance with the principle of self-determination and that UNCURK must be dissolved.

81. UNCURK was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 376 (V) in 1950 to assume the functions previously exercised by the United Nations Commission on Korea and to represent the United Nations in bringing about the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Government of all Korea. Yet the very advocates of respect for the Charter are the same Members that are now advocating dissolution of UNCURK, when we are all aware that within the framework of the United Nations the Commission is the only instrument through which unification can be achieved. UNCURK has done, and is doing, a good job in Korea. It is carrying out its mandate in Korea in the best traditions of our Organization. It has expressed its readiness at all times to do what is possible to bring about the reunification of Korea. My delegation feels that it is the obligation of the United Nations to see through the achievement of its objectives in that country. The dissolution of UNCURK would be to negate those objectives.

82. My delegation is glad to co-sponsor with other Member States draft resolution A/C.1/L.453, which reaffirms the objectives of the United Nations in Korea. We believe that the United Nations, which is empowered to take collective action to maintain peace and security, should continue extending its good offices in seeking a peaceful settlement in Korea, and creating conditions which would facilitate the reunification of the country on the

basis of the freely expressed will of the Korean people. Peace in the area is a prerequisite to the establishment of a unified and independent Korea. It is, therefore, essential that tension in the area be eased and that incidents in violation of the Armistice Agreement of 1953¹ be avoided. UNCURK must continue in its efforts to achieve the objectives of the United Nations in Korea and to carry out its mandate. It must submit regular reports to the Secretary-General and to the General Assembly as appropriate. It is through the submission of those reports that the Member States can be kept constantly informed of developments in the area. The frequency of reports should be determined by UNCURK in the light of its activities and of the developments in the area.

83. We lay stress on “the sole objective” of the United Nations forces in Korea, which is to preserve the peace and security of the area. We should like to emphasize that this draft resolution states in operative paragraph 6 that:

“... the Governments concerned are prepared to withdraw their remaining forces from Korea whenever such action is requested by the Republic of Korea or whenever the conditions for a lasting settlement formulated by the General Assembly have been fulfilled.”

84. The sponsors commend draft resolution A/C.1/L.453 to the Committee for its wide support. At the same time we ask the Committee to reject draft resolutions A/C.1/L.454 and A/C.1/L.455 and to oppose all attempts to destroy the work being carried out by the United Nations in Korea. The tragic war in Korea should not resound with the war-like blare of trumpets and roll of drums but should be settled in the silent but glorious triumph of a durable peace and prosperity in the whole of Korea. Let us join our hands in creating a world of reason, justice and peace. Therein lies the challenge to the nobility of character, intelligence and self-respect of all, including those who profess before us the desire for the unification of Korea yet advocate, contrarily, the dissolution of the very instrument for such unification.

85. The CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next speaker I think it is time for the Committee to decide when the list of speakers on the item under consideration should be closed. I shall not conceal from members of the Committee that at the opening of the meeting my intention was to propose that the list should be closed at 6 p.m. today, in order to follow the schedule which I outlined at an earlier meeting and taking into consideration the fact that we shall have no meeting tomorrow morning.

86. However, since it is now almost 6 o'clock, and since I have noticed that many delegations are not present, I think it is my duty to postpone the closing of the list of speakers to tomorrow, Thursday, at 3.30 p.m., in order that all delegations may be informed about the time of the closing of the list. That will, I think, enable all delegations to be informed in time; they will see it in the *Journal*. I believe that this delay will enable us still to respect the schedule previously outlined and to dispose of the item in time as we have already decided.

¹ See *Official Records of the Security Council, Eighth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1953*, document S/3079, appendix A.

87. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee decides that the list of speakers should be closed at 3.30 p.m. tomorrow.

It was so decided.

88. Sir Leslie GLASS (United Kingdom): Why does the United Nations exist? What is fundamental to the whole concept of our Organization? The answer is, peace, the prevention of fighting, of war, and the settlement of disputes. That is just what we are talking about here today and no one can or should say that we in the United Nations should not talk about it.

89. The fact is that the growing tension in Korea carries the seeds of serious danger to international peace and security. The violence in the area, which increased so dramatically in 1967, was followed in January 1968 by an attack on the residence of the President of the Republic of Korea in Seoul and continuing violence in the ensuing months. Such incidents could quickly lead to a grave situation.

90. Moreover, just now when the United Nations is considering the Korean question the North Koreans have chosen this moment to intensify their attacks, which reached new levels in October and November of 1968. If they think that they can thereby intimidate the United Nations they are mistaken. Their behaviour only shows more convincingly than ever that at no time has there been greater need for the presence of the United Nations Command Forces in Korea. Yet there are those who come here and call once again for the United Nations to leave Korea.

91. It is now eighteen years since United Nations forces first went to Korea, but at this time, when new dangers threaten, perhaps I may be permitted to recall to the Committee the circumstances which led to the dispatch of United Nations Forces to Korea.

92. The United Nations Forces had their origin in Security Council resolution 83 (1950) of 27 June 1950. The resolution found that there had been an armed attack upon the Republic of Korea by forces from North Korea which constituted a breach of the peace. It recommended that the Members of the United Nations should furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as might be necessary to repel the armed attack and restore international peace and security in the area.

93. Fifty-one Member States of the United Nations expressed their support for the stand taken by the Security Council. Only five dissented. I repeat, out of the total United Nations membership only five dissented. Sixteen Governments contributed forces and many others supplied other assistance.

94. It hardly needs to be said that the few who opposed the United Nations going to the assistance of the Republic of Korea when it was under attack from North Korea today continue to take a leading part in calling for the United Nations to abandon its responsibilities in Korea.

95. I should like, too, to recall to the Committee a passage from the report of the United Nations Commission on

Korea covering the period from 15 December 1949 to 4 September 1950.

“The invasion of the territory of the Republic of Korea by the armed forces of the North Korean authorities, which began on 25 June 1950, was an act of aggression initiated without warning and without provocation, in execution of a carefully prepared plan.

“This plan of aggression, it is now clear, was an essential part of the policy of the North Korean authorities, the object of which was to secure control over the whole of Korea. If control could not be gained by peaceful means, it would be achieved by overthrowing the Republic of Korea, either by undermining it from within or, should that prove ineffective, by resorting to direct aggression. As the methods used for undermining the Republic from within proved unsuccessful, the North Korean authorities launched an invasion of the territory of the Republic of Korea.”²

96. That report has an all too familiar ring. Today we read in the reports of UNCURK and of the United Nations Command of intrusion, of infiltration, of sabotage and even of attempted political assassination carried out by North Korea.

97. A further example of North Korean aggressiveness was its seizure in January 1968 of the United States ship *Pueblo* and its continued detention of the ship and its crew. The British Foreign Secretary expressed the sense of outrage felt in the United Kingdom at the time of that action. The United Kingdom representative in the Security Council urged on the Council the grave dangers of the situation, in the light both of the report of the seizure of the ship and also of the most disquieting evidence of the increase in violations of the Korean Armistice Agreement. His call for the need for respect for the Agreement to be reaffirmed by the Council went unheeded, and violations continued.

98. Ever since the United Nations was compelled to take action to oppose and, at great cost, to halt the North Korean assault upon the Republic of Korea, the North Korean authorities have lost no opportunity of attacking the United Nations. By distorting and rewriting history they have sought to destroy the standing and prestige of the United Nations and somehow to have the world believe that the United Nations acted illegally in Korea.

99. The Korean War was an instance of the United Nations acting collectively to foil aggression. We reject utterly North Korean accusations that in some way it was North Korea that was the victim of aggression at the hands of the United Nations.

100. We reject, too, the demand of the North Koreans and their friends that the United Nations should leave Korea and cease to concern itself with the Korean situation. Let us pause for a moment and think seriously about what would happen if the United Nations troops were not present to watch the military demarcation line.

101. Few in this Committee would, I believe, dare to predict what the future would then hold for Korea, indeed

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 16*, paras. 202 and 203.

what could be the consequences for the peace of Asia and the peace of the world. We learnt all too well in 1950 what the North Koreans mean by "peaceful reunification". No one can wish that experience to be repeated. I would urge all Members of the United Nations who have joined us since 1950 to study with the greatest care the sad history of events of that year. Are we to believe that the mere removal of the presence of the United Nations is to bring lasting peace and security? If so, this surely suggests a curious attitude towards the United Nations. Is this an extension of the doctrine which has been propounded to us that there are areas of the world—spheres of influence—in which it is better that the United Nations should not interfere? That there are areas of the world in which the use of force is to be regarded as a normal means of regulating disputes? Could it be that the proposal for the United Nations to withdraw from Korea is in fact an invitation to the United Nations to leave the Korean question to be settled as an attempt was made in 1950 to settle it, that is by force. In spite of all their talk of peaceful reunification, there is much to suggest that that is indeed the course of events favoured by that minority in this Committee which calls for United Nations withdrawal from Korea.

102. I repeat, the United Nations first responsibility is to maintain peace in Korea. So long as the United Nations presence is necessary for that purpose it must remain. My delegation is vehemently opposed to the proposal for its withdrawal.

103. Indeed, such is the situation that we believe that the United Nations should keep itself more immediately informed of what is happening in Korea. For that reason, the resolution before the Committee, which my delegation has co-sponsored, calls for regular reports from the United Nations Commission. We should not fall victim to the delusion that United Nations peace-keeping in Korea is merely an affair of annual debate.

104. But simply to hold the present position is not enough. What we have to do is to progress to a final settlement. The lines of that settlement have been set out in many resolutions of the General Assembly.

105. Our purpose—the purpose of the United Nations—is to bring about, by peaceful means, the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government, and the restoration of international peace and security in the area. That is surely a purpose we can all support. It is certainly right and proper that the United Nations should concern itself with that task, just as it should make its first concern the maintenance of peace in Korea.

106. This is the more so since the Government of the Republic of Korea has sought the assistance of the United Nations; has unhesitatingly recognized the competence and authority of the United Nations to deal with the question of the unification of Korea; and has undertaken to give its unsparing co-operation to United Nations efforts for the earliest achievement of unification, in accordance with the principles reaffirmed in the General Assembly's many resolutions.

107. The obstacle to progress is the obstinate refusal of the North Korean authorities to vary in any way their

attitude of rejection of the United Nations. On this there has been no change. Amid all the verbiage of their statements the message remains the same. Thus in their memorandum of 18 July:

"If the United Nations really wants to act in accordance with the principles of its Charter, it must take hands off the Korean question"; [See A/C.1/971.]

And then again on 25 July:

"The question of Korea's unification must be settled in any case by the Korean people themselves in an independent way and the United Nations or any other outside forces must not meddle in it." [See A/C.1/970.]

To accept and condone such rejection of the United Nations would be dangerous for all of us. To reward such rejection with concessions would be worse still.

108. We most strongly and sincerely urge that those friends of North Korea who have influence with the North Korean authorities should do all in their power to persuade the North Koreans to reconsider their position. Surely after eighteen years this is not too soon.

109. My delegation can see no reason why, if the North Koreans would meet with the United Nations in a spirit of co-operation, progress could not be made. That is what we should all wish to see. I cannot believe that any member of this Committee would be unready to support a United Nations effort to bring final peace to Korea if the North Koreans would make that possible.

110. If there are those who will not at any price have the United Nations concern itself with Korea, I think we should be wise to examine their motives with extreme care before accepting their advice.

111. We for our part will continue to give to the United Nations in its efforts to bring about a settlement in Korea the same support which we have consistently given in the past. My delegation has accordingly sponsored the draft resolution in document A/C.1/L.453 and urges other delegations in the Committee to vote for it.

112. Mr. GURINOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (*translated from Russian*): My delegation deeply regrets that a discriminatory decision with regard to inviting Korean representatives to take part in the discussion of questions relating to Korea has once again been imposed on the First Committee. As a result, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has once again been denied an opportunity to explain its position to the Committee. On the other hand, a representative of the South Korean puppet régime is occupying a chair in this hall and is even permitted to speak. We were not present in the Committee when he made his statement, since he is not the spokesman of the Korean people, but merely a mouthpiece of the United States military.

113. A group of socialist, African and Asian countries, including the Byelorussian SSR, proposed at this session that the Committee should discuss the withdrawal of United States and all other foreign forces occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations. Our basic assumption was that the continuing occupation of Korea is

a consequence of interference by imperialist forces in the internal affairs of the Korean people.

114. While the unification of Korea is a purely internal matter for the Korean people to settle, the withdrawal of foreign forces from South Korea is a question that has a bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security. It is here that the United Nations can and must play a constructive part by taking steps to eliminate a source of tension in Asia and remove obstacles to the peaceful unification of Korea. The principal obstacle is the continuing occupation of South Korea by the armed forces of the United States, whose Government is doing its utmost to transform South Korea into a jumping off place for suppressing the national liberation movement on the Asian continent. There are absolutely no grounds for the continuing military presence of the United States in South Korea. Over fifteen years have elapsed since the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement in Korea, which provided for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country. There has not been a single foreign soldier in the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a long time.

115. South Korea presents an entirely different picture. A United States occupation army 60,000 strong is deployed there, the symbolic presence of Thai subdivisions being an obvious excuse to enable the United States Army to arrogate unto itself the name of "United Nations Forces".

116. The flag, the prestige and the authority of the United Nations are being shamelessly misused by the United States in South Korea.

117. The crowning achievement of United States interference in the Korean people's affairs was the establishment of the puppet military dictatorship in South Korea. In flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement, United States troops are standing guard over the military junta they have set up. The United States Government is making use of the South Korean régime to expand its aggressive policy in Asia. Obediently taking part in Washington's reckless ventures in return for a handful of dollar bills, Park Chung Hee stands out among the other meek satellites of the United States in being the main supplier of cannon fodder for South Viet-Nam, where there are already 50,000 South Korean mercenaries. Not long ago, the Seoul régime decided to send another 5,000 soldiers to Viet-Nam. This South Korean escalation in Viet-Nam is as shameful and criminal as the United States escalation. The United Nations ought not to tolerate the use of South Korean soldiers to suppress the national liberation movement of the people of South Viet-Nam.

118. United States occupation of South Korea and the constant efforts of the United States Government to draw the South Korean régime into the execution of its aggressive plans in Asia obstruct the peaceful unification of Korea, exacerbate the situation in the Far East, and create a threat to international peace and security.

119. The United States Government is inventing various pretexts for interfering in the internal affairs of the Korean people. In particular, it is using the flag of the United Nations as an excuse for the presence of its troops in South

Korea. With the same aim in mind, it is imposing its customary resolution on the Korean question on the General Assembly and thus using United Nations authority as a cover for its own self-seeking policies. But these so-called United Nations resolutions on the Korean question can delude no one, for they are adopted in clear violation of the Charter and against the will of the Korean people. Consequently, they have no legal foundation.

120. The United States is endeavouring to make use of the illegally created United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea to justify its protracted occupation of South Korea. Together with other delegations, my delegation strongly advocates the dissolution of that Commission, which represents an obstacle in the way of unification of Korea and which by its reports to the United Nations furnishes annual pretexts for the United States Government to place the so-called Korean question on the agenda of the General Assembly with a view to obtaining the blessing of the United Nations for continuing to occupy South Korea. In brief, the United States Government is using the Commission to further its own aggressive plans and to perpetuate the division of Korea.

121. The entire activity of the Commission demonstrates that it is not a legitimate and competent United Nations organ, but merely a resonator tuned to the wave-length of United States aggressive policy. The Commission takes a biased and hostile attitude towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In distorting that country's peace-loving policy and passing over in silence its independent proposals for the peaceful unification of Korea, the Commission has come to be the very embodiment of the cold war.

122. The Commission has been carrying on an intensive propaganda campaign to publicize the non-existent "penetration" from the North. It is attempting to lay the blame for the present sad state of affairs in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to camouflage the criminal policy of the United States which, while occupying South Korea under the flag of the United Nations, invokes the Commission's conclusions, since they are biased in its favour.

123. In dwelling on the "peace-loving" attitude of the South Korean authorities, the Commission prefers to overlook the statements of official representatives of South Korea, who quite candidly express the very opposite views. No less a personage than the puppet Prime Minister, Chung Il Kwon, for example, declared early this year that the Government of South Korea "categorically opposed the Armistice Agreement in 1953 and has never officially approved it".

124. The Commission endeavours to mislead public opinion by describing the position of the South Korean people as viewed through rose-coloured glasses. It is a matter of common knowledge that the so-called "elections" in South Korea always take place in an atmosphere of terror and repression, deception and fraud, and that the Park Chung Hee clique uses its military and police forces to suppress all opposition groups. That the fictitious elections held in South Korea are a swindle, that the economy has been militarized, that unbridled terror is being exercised to put down all the opponents of the present régime and that

corruption is rampant—these are facts known throughout the world. The United States itself recognizes that the South Korean people are dissatisfied with the military junta who are their rulers. Thus, in its issue of 16 June 1968 the newspaper *Washington Post* noted a “growing distrust of the Park Chung Hee Government among large groups of the population and the general public”.

125. But the Commission persists in disregarding such facts and continues to lavish high praise on the bankrupt régime.

126. All this demonstrates that the Commission’s activities run counter to the legitimate interests of the Korean people. Its true purpose is to serve as the apologist of United States aggressive policy in Korea which undermines the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It is therefore urgently necessary to dissolve this bankrupt Commission.

127. The Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has given practical evidence of its desire for a just and peaceful settlement of the Korean question. It has repeatedly submitted constructive proposals with a view to speeding such settlement. It has time and again suggested ways of establishing contacts between North and South. The documents it has submitted to us for our consideration testify to that.

128. Proceeding from the principle that the question of the unification of Korea must be decided independently, on a democratic basis, and by peaceful means, the Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has been consistently pressing for the formation of a unified democratic central Government by means of general free elections conducted in the North and in the South by the Korean people itself, without any outside interference and after the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea.

129. The Government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has advanced a number of proposals for the gradual achievement of full unification by means of transitional measures, one of which is the formation of a confederation of North and South Korea. Such a confederation presupposes the development of political, economic, cultural and social ties and co-operation between the two parts of the country. As a minimum step to develop communications between North and South that Government proposed the establishment of postal exchanges among relatives and friends who are now separated and ignorant of each other’s fate. It also proposed the conclusion of a peace pact, under which, after the withdrawal of United States forces from South Korea, the two sides would refrain from resorting to armed force against each other and their armed services would be reduced to 100,000 or less each. It further declared itself prepared to negotiate with such representatives of South Korea as are sincerely concerned at the continuing division of Korea, regardless of their political views. Lastly, it proposed the calling of an international conference of interested

countries with a view to a peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

130. These proposals cannot but be interpreted as a manifestation of goodwill and of a desire to achieve a peaceful solution of the Korean problem. The South Korean puppet régime, on the other hand, has been rejecting all these proposals because they are not in the interests of the United States, which has in fact transformed South Korea into a permanent base for its aggressive onslaughts on Asian peoples and which sees in them a threat to its selfish designs.

131. If the United States is truly desirous of making a contribution to the solution of the Korean question and thereby enhancing peace and security in the Far East, it must forthwith recall its occupation forces from South Korea. The best way of achieving the unification of Korea is to arrange for direct negotiations between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and South Korea without any foreign interference whatever. The annual discussion of the so-called Korean question at the General Assembly does nothing to enhance the authority of the United Nations. Indeed, the contrary is true. Moreover, the discussion does not advance the solution of the question, but rather adds to the difficulties.

132. In this connexion, I cannot but commend the timeliness of the Cuban delegation’s initiative in placing on this session’s agenda the supplementary item entitled,

“Need to put an end to the discussion in the United Nations on the unification of Korea” [A/7227].

133. If we consider carefully the history of the discussion of the so-called “Korean question” in the United Nations over a period of more than twenty years, it becomes obvious that the United Nations has entirely failed in its task of unifying Korea by peaceful means and that by its interference in the Korean people’s affairs it is merely making the attainment of that goal, so ardently desired by the Korean people, more difficult.

134. The Byelorussian delegation believes that it is the duty of all Member States to make a contribution towards the realization of the national aspirations of the Korean people and the maintenance of peace in the Far East. In order that the cause of peace and of the Korean people’s national independence may triumph, all United States and other foreign forces must be withdrawn from South Korea, the so-called “United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea” must be dissolved, and the so-called “Korean question” must be removed for all time from the agenda of the General Assembly.

135. The Byelorussian delegation appeals to all members of the Committee to support these proposals, for they serve the interests of the Korean people and the cause of world peace.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.