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CONTENTS

	Page
Invitation aspects of the consideration of item 98: Question of Korea (<i>continued</i>)	1
Organization of work	3

Chairman: Mr. Andrés AGUILAR M. (Venezuela).

Invitation aspects of the consideration of item 98: Question of Korea (continued) (A/8026, A/8044 and Add.1-3, A/8045 and Add.1-3, A/8046, A/C.1/999, 1000, 1002, 1007, 1008, A/C.1/L.520 and 521)

1. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland): My delegation takes the floor for the first time in this Committee. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity to say that my delegation is very happy to see you, Mr. Chairman, presiding over the deliberations of the First Committee.

2. Many people, even within this noble Organization, have been questioning the authority of the United Nations. Many have even said that the Organization was in a crisis of confidence. It is my delegation's view that this state of affairs should not be allowed to continue.

3. My delegation, as will be seen, is a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/L.521. Dealing only with the invitation aspect of this question, my delegation is convinced that the draft resolution tabled by it and by others is in line with the objectives and ideals of the United Nations. As shown in the memorandum of 7 October 1970 [see A/C.1/1007], presented by the Republic of Korea, the Government of the Republic of Korea, being loyal to the objectives and principles of the Charter, has always given the United Nations a favourable response with regard to all the resolutions that have been adopted on that subject. It has always recognized the competence and authority of the United Nations to take action on the unification of Korea and has wholeheartedly co-operated with the United Nations in carrying out the mission with which it was entrusted there. In the view of my delegation, the Republic of Korea, in its actions, has symbolized beyond any shadow of doubt a participation that could be expected from all those who love peace. On the other hand, my delegation observes that the leaders of North Korea have constantly refused to recognize the competence and authority of the United Nations. It is clear, therefore, to my delegation that the leaders of North Korea, by their attitude, do not promote the ideals of the United Nations, which are peace, justice and freedom, ideals which we demand should be put into effect immediately in the whole of Korea.

4. In my delegation's view there is need, therefore, for both parties concerned in the unification of Korea to accept the competence of the United Nations in accordance with the objectives of the Charter. It has been made clear—especially again this year in the memoranda of 22 June and 16 September 1970 [see A/C.1/999 and 1008] that North Korea continues to question the competence, the authority and the legality of the United Nations to deal with the Korean question.

5. This negative attitude on the part of the North Korean people is deplorable to say the least, because it is a barrier to the relaxation of tensions and the coming together of the people of the same country—if not of the same family—to deal with a problem that is common to them all. To deny the right of the United Nations, to challenge its hearings and its authority and competence, will always be detrimental to the peaceful settlement and the harmonious solution of the most crucial problem of our time—that of divided nations.

6. When we request, therefore, that North Korea should unequivocally accept the authority of the United Nations, we do not intend to close the gates of the world body to anyone. But we do it as a sure proof and an open manifestation of a particular problem that the United Nations is willing to solve on the merits of the case, using its competence, authority and efficacy. It is understandable, therefore, that the parties coming to the United Nations should, to say the least, accept the competence of this body.

7. In view of the unreserved acceptance of the competence and authority of the United Nations by the other party, namely, the Republic of Korea, it is the opinion of my delegation that to invite the representatives of North Korea unconditionally would be as unjust and as unwise as it would be detrimental to the dignity and authority of this esteemed world Organization.

8. We are, therefore, among those who believe that in regard to our debate, the two parties to be invited are duty bound to accept unequivocally the competence of the authority of the United Nations if it is sincerely desired that an equitable solution should be found to this twenty-three-year-old problem. My delegation firmly believes that peace and security should be restored in the whole area of Korea and that tensions there should be removed in order to create an atmosphere that will lead to the peaceful unification of Korea by democratic means. This solution does exist but, of course, a way can only be found with North Korea accepting unequivocally the competence of this body. My delegation believes that if the United Nations is to carry out its responsibilities around the world and in particular in Korea, if its authority is not to be questioned,

and peace is to be restored in Korea, then the parties concerned should adopt a positive attitude and approach towards this Organization, recognizing that it holds authority and competence over the question it has to hear.

9. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I thank the representative of Swaziland for the very kind words he addressed to the officers of the Committee.

10. Mr. TSURUOKA (Japan): Yesterday afternoon [1741st meeting] the representative of the Philippines introduced draft resolution A/C.1/L.521 in a concise and convincing manner. My delegation fully shares his opinions and endorses his statement.

11. The problem of extending an invitation to the representative of North Korea to take part in the consideration of the Korean question in the First Committee without right of vote has long been discussed in the United Nations. In the view of my delegation, the problem is very simple. We, the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.521, are quite ready and willing to invite a representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take part in the discussions of the Korean question in the United Nations, without right of vote, provided that it first unequivocally accepts the competence and authority of the United Nations, within the terms of the Charter, to take action on the Korean question.

12. Some delegations would appear to pretend that it is unfair to extend an invitation to one party on a conditional basis, while extending an invitation to the other on an unconditional basis. At first glance, that argument might appear to be objective but let us not be misguided by it, because it is a deceptive argument. What is the condition we are talking about? It is not a condition which sets up one standard for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and another, more favourable, standard for the Republic of Korea. Precisely the same standard is applied to both. We are not asking for more from the one than we are asking from the other: all we are asking from both parties is the unequivocal acceptance of the competence and authority of the United Nations within the terms of the Charter to take action on the Korean question.

13. As is noted in the preamble of draft resolution A/C.1/L.521, the Republic of Korea has already accepted that condition. What we are asking in our draft resolution is that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea do precisely the same thing. This it has not done. On the contrary, as is noted in the fourth paragraph of the preamble of draft resolution A/C.1/L.521, it continues to hold the view that the United Nations has neither the competence nor the authority to concern itself with the Korean question.

14. The hostile attitude of North Korea towards the United Nations with regard to the Korean question has been reaffirmed, for instance, in its memorandum of 22 June 1970 [see A/C.1/999]. That memorandum states: "Originally, the United Nations has no ground whatsoever to interfere in the question of Korean unification" and: "the United Nations should take the measure of repealing all its illegal 'resolutions' on the 'Korean question'".

15. My delegation cannot accept this attitude. How can one expect the representative of North Korea to play a constructive role in our discussion of the Korean question, when the authorities in Pyongyang deny the competence of the United Nations with regard to that question? It seems only logical to my delegation that those which are not Members of the United Nations and yet wish to participate in the discussion in the Organization may be required, as a condition for such participation, to accept the competence of the United Nations.

16. In contrast to the negative position taken by North Korea, the Republic of Korea has consistently accepted the competence and authority of the United Nations with regard to Korea. Recently, in a statement submitted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, dated 26 September 1970 [see A/C.1/1002], the Government of that country again confirms this attitude. The statement reads: "the Republic of Korea continues to accept unequivocally the competence and authority of the United Nations within the terms of the Charter to take action on the Korean question". This basic difference in the attitudes of the two parties, the one negative and obstructive, the other positive and constructive, is obvious to everyone.

17. The first step towards a satisfactory solution of the problem, then, is for North Korea to accept the competence and authority of the United Nations, as the Republic of Korea has already done. It is precisely on these terms that draft resolution A/C.1/L.521 is formulated, extending invitations to both parties to participate in our discussion.

18. With regard to numerous important issues discussed in the United Nations, great emphasis is usually laid on the need of respect for and the faithful implementation of General Assembly or Security Council resolutions. It is often asserted that disregard on the part of the countries concerned of those resolutions constitutes the main obstacle to the solution of the problems.

19. Nevertheless, when it comes to the Korean question, certain delegations seem to advance the argument that it is the attitude of the General Assembly or the Security Council that is to blame, disregarding completely the fact that the reason the Korean question remains unsettled is precisely because they denounce the resolutions of the General Assembly or the Security Council, qualifying them as illegal. We must point out that this attitude is clearly contradictory, deliberately ignoring the logic of things, and it leads to impairing the authority of the United Nations. We should, therefore, make further efforts to ensure respect for United Nations resolutions.

20. What we sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/L.521 are asking is simply to make that point clear. We are asking that both parties concerned should equally recognize the authority of the United Nations in this matter in accordance with the consistent position of the United Nations, as exemplified by a series of General Assembly resolutions.

21. From all that I have said it is quite apparent that Japan is strongly opposed to draft resolution A/C.1/L.520 and will vote against it. That draft resolution, of course, is wholly inequitable in that it makes no distinction at all

between the parties with regard to their respective attitudes, the one positive and the other negative, towards the United Nations.

22. I trust that draft resolution A/C.1/L.521, sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Gabon, Gambia, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, the Philippines, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, the United States of America and Japan, will be adopted by the vote of an overwhelming majority of this Committee.

23. Mr. FACK (Netherlands): In view of the pressure of work in the First Committee, I shall be extremely brief.

24. Once again, as in so many years past, this Committee is faced with the procedural aspects of the Korean question. These procedural aspects have gradually acquired the character of a ritual. Intricate steps are being performed by the participants as if going through the motions of a complicated dance. This ritual treatment of the Korean item, in our view, tends to obscure the importance of the basic issue.

25. My delegation notes with regret that some Governments still persist in their policy deliberately to undermine the activities of the United Nations in Korea.

26. With equal regret, my delegation has taken note of the unchanged attitude of aggressiveness, in word and deed, of North Korea.

27. Bearing these factors in mind, my delegation feels, as before, that the admission of parties involved in the Korean conflict, without specific recognition of the competence and authority of the United Nations, would tend to prejudice the substantive issue. For these reasons my delegation has co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/L.521 and urges its adoption by the Committee.

Organization of work

28. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): There are no more speakers inscribed on my list for this afternoon. The idea is to take advantage of any opportunity

there may be tomorrow to hold meetings of the First Committee immediately after the debate in the General Assembly. It is quite possible that we may be able to hold our meeting in the General Assembly hall itself either in the morning or in the afternoon, subject, of course, to the hour at which the discussion on the Middle East question may end in the plenary. I would invite delegations whose names are inscribed on the list to participate in our debate—there are approximately 20 of them—to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible as to when they will be ready to participate in this debate. In this way, as I said this morning, we shall be able to avoid the necessity of holding a night meeting.

29. Mr. HEARN (Canada): I apologize to you, Mr. Chairman, and to representatives, for holding up the meeting at the last moment. I just wanted to say, in connexion with your last observation about a night meeting, that although we are very conscious of and share the general reluctance to undertake night meetings if these can be avoided, we are rather apprehensive, in view of the length of the list of speakers and of the possible length of the debate on the Middle East, that in fact it will be difficult without night meetings for this Committee to complete its agreed programme and the item we are now engaged with by Friday afternoon, 30 October. As you know, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is particularly anxious that we should be able to proceed with the disarmament item on Monday, 2 November, as agreed, and I should simply like to say that we hope that the prospect of night meetings, unwelcome though it may be, will not be left entirely to one side. We think that it may be necessary because of the length of the list of speakers on this item.

30. The CHAIRMAN (*interpretation from Spanish*): I think that all members of the Committee have taken note of what I said earlier; that is, if we take full advantage of the time available tomorrow and we hold a meeting either in the morning or in the afternoon for one or two hours, and if the statements are brief, we might be able to complete the list of speakers. Of course, if this is not the case, we shall have to fall back on what we had decided—a night meeting.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.