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10 April 1958

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit on behalf of the United States Government, in its capacity as the Unified Command, a copy of the note which the United Kingdom Government transmitted to the Chinese Communist authorities, on 9 April 1958, on behalf of the Governments of the countries which have contributed forces to the United Nations Command in Korea. The note of the United Kingdom Government was in reply to the Chinese Communist statement issued in Peiping on 7 February 1958, which had been communicated to these Governments.

It is requested that this communication and the attached copy of the note be circulated to all Members of the United Nations as a General Assembly document.

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Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires presents his compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, on instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has the honour to state that, as requested by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on 7 February, the statement on Korea made on that date by the Government of the People's Republic of China has been communicated to the Governments of the countries which have contributed forces for the United Nations force in Korea, who, after consultation, have requested Her Majesty's Government to reply on their behalf.

The Governments of the countries which have contributed forces for the United Nations force in Korea have noted the statement made by the North Korean authorities on 5 February and that made by the People's Republic of China and communicated to Her Britannic Majesty's Charge d'Affaires in Peking on 7 February. They have given careful study to these statements and to the proposals made therein.

The Governments concerned reaffirm that their aim in Korea is to see the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. To this end, as they have often stated, they wish to see free elections held under United Nations supervision for the constitution of a National Assembly. They are glad to note that the North Korean authorities and the People's Republic of China also favour free elections and they welcome the announcement that Chinese forces are to be withdrawn from North Korea.

There appears, however, to be some doubt as to the precise interpretation to be placed on the North Korean proposals. A variety of statements is reported to have been made, for example, by North Korean representatives in Peking and Moscow, to the effect that the "purpose of supervision by a neutral nations organization was to see that all political parties and public figures in both North and South Korea would have freedom of action, speech, publication, assembly and association" but that "such supervision should not intervene in the elections". These interpretations appear to call for some clarification and the Governments of the countries concerned would be glad to know whether, when the North Korean authorities speak of a "neutral nations organization" to supervise

the elections, they accept that these should be held under United Nations auspices and that there should be adequate supervision not only of the preliminaries but also of the elections themselves. They would also be glad to know whether it is accepted that representation in the new National Assembly shall be in proportion to the indigenous population.

If the People's Republic of China will seek from the North Korean authorities clarification of the points mentioned above with such other details of the Korean proposals as may be relevant, they will be given careful consideration.

A copy of this reply is being transmitted to the United Nations.
