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THE KOREAN QUESTION

(a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR  
THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Oscar THORSING (Sweden)

1. At its 294th meeting on 7 October 1950, the General Assembly adopted resolution 376 (V) on the problem of the independence of Korea and established the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.
2. On 17 August 1954, in accordance with its terms of reference, the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea submitted a report<sup>1/</sup> covering the period from 14 August 1953 to 17 August 1954.
3. At its 478th meeting on 25 September 1954, the General Assembly included the report of the Commission in the agenda of the ninth session under the title: "The Korean question: (a) Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea", and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
4. The First Committee considered the item at its 736th to 745th meetings, inclusive, held from 1 to 9 December 1954.
5. At the 736th meeting, on 1 December, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.112), the operative part of which provided that the First Committee should decide to invite representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China to participate in the discussion of the Korean question.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 15, document A/2711.

6. At the same meeting, Thailand submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.113), providing that a representative of the Republic of Korea should be invited to participate in the debate without the right to vote.

7. At the same meeting, India submitted amendments (A/C.1/L.114) to the draft resolution of the USSR, as follows: (i) to delete the preamble; (ii) to insert the words "the Republic of Korea" before the words: "the Democratic People's Republic of Korea"; (iii) to add the words: "without the right to vote" at the end of the draft resolution.

8. Also at the same meeting, Syria submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.115), the operative part of which provided that the First Committee should decide to invite representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to participate in the discussion of the question.

9. At the 737th meeting, on the same date, the representative of the USSR accepted the amendments of India and an oral amendment submitted by the representative of Poland which provided that, in the operative paragraph, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would be mentioned first.

10. At the same meeting, a motion by the representative of Iraq that priority in the voting should be given to the draft resolution of Thailand was adopted by 39 votes to 9, with 9 abstentions.

The draft resolution of Thailand was thereafter adopted by 43 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions.

The modified USSR draft resolution was rejected by 39 votes to 9, with 10 abstentions.

The draft resolution of Syria was rejected by 37 votes to 5, with 16 abstentions.

11. At the same meeting, the USSR submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.116), providing, inter alia, that the General Assembly should deem it advisable that the States concerned should continue their efforts to reach agreement on the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and, to that end, should convene a conference of interested States at an early date.

12. At the same meeting, the USSR submitted a second draft resolution (A/C.1/L.117), providing that the General Assembly should decide to discontinue the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

13. At the 738th meeting, on 2 December, India submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.118), providing, inter alia, that the General Assembly, having received the report (A/2786) on the Korean Political Conference, held in Geneva from 26 April to 15 June 1954, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 711 (VII) of 28 August 1953, should (i) reaffirm that the objectives of the United Nations remained the achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area; (ii) recognize that these objectives should be achieved by peaceful methods and constructive efforts on the part of all concerned; (iii) express the earnest hope that progress in respect of the settlement of the Korean question would be made; (iv) request the Governments concerned to take note of the resolution; and (v) request the Secretary-General to place the item on the agenda of the tenth session.

14. At the same meeting, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (A/C.1/L.119) providing, inter alia, that the General Assembly should (i) approve the report on the Korean Political Conference (A/2786); (ii) reaffirm that the objectives of the United Nations remained the achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area; (iii) express the hope that it would soon prove possible to make progress toward these objectives; and (iv) request the Secretary-General to place the item on the provisional agenda of the tenth session.

15. At the 739th meeting, on 3 December, India submitted and subsequently withdrew a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.120), providing, inter alia, that the General Assembly, having received and taken note of the reports<sup>2/</sup> of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission established under the Korean Armistice Agreement, and of the Secretary-General's note of 29 November 1954 (A/2809) concerning prisoners of war temporarily being cared for by the Government of India pending

<sup>2/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 18, document A/2641.

decision as to their final disposition, should (i) decide to defer further consideration of the reports in question; and (ii) request the Secretary-General to assist the Government of India in the earliest possible final disposition of the prisoners concerned to the countries of their choice which would accept them.

16. At the 744th meeting, on 8 December, the USSR withdrew its first draft resolution (A/C.1/L.116), and submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.121) to the Indian draft resolution (A/C.1/L.118), providing for the deletion of the part of the preamble referred to in paragraph 13 above.

17. At the same meeting, a motion by the representative of Turkey that priority in the voting should be given to the fifteen-Power draft resolution was adopted by 37 votes to 11, with 11 abstentions.

The Committee proceeded to vote, paragraph by paragraph, on the fifteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.119), as follows:

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 54 votes to 5, with no abstentions.

The second paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 53 votes to 5, with no abstentions.

The third, fourth and fifth paragraphs of the preamble were adopted by 59 votes to none, with no abstentions.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 46 to 5, with 8 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Burma, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Operative paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted by 59 votes to none, with no abstentions.

Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 54 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The fifteen-Power draft resolution as a whole was approved by 50 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.

The Committee thereafter agreed not to vote on the draft resolution of India.

The second draft resolution of the USSR (A/C.1/L.117) was rejected by 50 votes to 5, with 1 abstention.

18. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

#### THE KOREAN QUESTION

The General Assembly,

Having noted the report<sup>1/</sup> of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea signed at Seoul, Korea, on 17 August 1954,

Having received the report (A/2786) on the Korean Political Conference held in Geneva from 26 April to 15 June 1954, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 711 (VII) of 28 August 1953,

Noting that the negotiations in Geneva have not resulted in agreement on a final settlement of the Korean question in accordance with the United Nations objectives in Korea,

Recognizing that these objectives should be achieved by peaceful methods and constructive efforts on the part of the Governments concerned,

Noting that paragraph 62 of the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 provides that the Agreement "shall remain in effect until expressly superseded either by mutually acceptable amendments and additions or by provision in an appropriate agreement for a peaceful settlement at a political level between both sides",

1. Approves the report on the Korean Political Conference (A/2786);
2. Reaffirms that the objectives of the United Nations remain the achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area;

<sup>1/</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 15, document A/2711.

3. Expresses the hope that it will soon prove possible to make progress toward these objectives;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to place this item on the provisional agenda of its tenth session.

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