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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE TENTH REGULAR
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEMS PROPOSED BY INDIA

- (a) REPORTS OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS REPATRIATION
COMMISSION IN KOREA
- (b) PROBLEM OF EX-PRISONERS OF THE KOREAN WAR

Letter dated 14 September 1955 addressed to the Secretary-General
by the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

New York, 14 September 1955

In continuation of my letter dated 21 August 1955, I have the honour to enclose an explanatory memorandum concerning item 9 of the supplementary list of items for the agenda of the tenth regular session of the General Assembly (A/2942).

(Signed) Arthur S. LALL
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(a) Reports of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea

The reports of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission^{1/} regarding exchange of prisoners were presented to the United Nations last year and circulated to the Members of the General Assembly but have not been discussed. The object of the Government of India is to have them studied and debated by the General Assembly at its tenth session.

(b) Problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war

This has reference to paragraph 30 of chapter IV and paragraph 44 of chapter V of the final report of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. Seventy-six Korean and twelve Chinese prisoners of war, who had categorically refused to be handed over to their former detaining sides and wanted to go to neutral countries were brought to India on 8 February 1954. While taking over these prisoners of war, the Government of India on the same day informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations that they are undertaking the care, maintenance and protection of these prisoners, pending their final disposition, on behalf of the United Nations towards whom they look for the discharge of this responsibility.

Since these prisoners came to India, two Chinese and four North Korean prisoners expressed a desire to be repatriated to China and North Korea respectively. Accordingly, they were repatriated to their respective fatherlands.

Eighty-two prisoners of war are still being cared for by the Government of India pending their final disposition. The majority of the prisoners wish to be settled in neutral countries. The Government of India have been urging the Secretary-General of the United Nations since February 1954 to arrange as early as possible placement of these prisoners in the neutral countries of their choice.

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighth Session, Supplement No. 18, document A/2641.

The Government of India cannot continue indefinitely to shoulder this burden which they undertook on behalf of the United Nations and the General Assembly should call upon Member States which were neutral in the Korean war to accept such among the eighty-two prisoners of war who seek admission to their respective countries and to undertake the responsibility for their rehabilitation.

Continued responsibility for the care and maintenance of the prisoners also involves a financial burden for the Government of India.

In September 1953, it was agreed that the expenditure incurred by India on the NNRC operations would be shared equally by the United Nations Command and the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army Commands. In August 1954, accounts were submitted to both the Commands on that basis. In September 1954, the Northern Command paid its share of the expenditure through the Chinese Government. The United Nations Command made payment for only part of their share of the expenditure in June 1955, after deducting from it expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the movement and maintenance of the prisoners of war. Thus the United Nations Command's share of the expenditure on the transport of these prisoners of war from Korea to India and their care and maintenance in this country has not yet been paid. The Government of India cannot understand the reluctance of the United Nations Command to pay their share of the expenditure particularly in view of the fact that the decision of the Chairman of the NNRC to send these prisoners to India had the approval of the United Nations Command.

In view of the difficulties, the Government of India would like the General Assembly to make definite arrangements for meeting the expenditure on the care and maintenance of these prisoners in India, pending their final disposition.
