

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLYASSEMBLEE  
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOREA

## REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

Rapporteur: Mr. Henrik KAUFFMANN (Denmark)

## I.

1. On 23 September 1947, the General Assembly decided to refer to the First Committee, for consideration and report, the item on its agenda submitted by the delegation of the United States of America and entitled "The problem of the independence of Korea" (document A/BUR/85).
2. The Committee first discussed the question of Korea at its eighty-seventh meeting held on 28 October 1947, when a statement was made by the representative of the United States who introduced the United States draft resolution which was transmitted to the Secretary-General on 17 October 1947 (document A/C.1/218).
3. The eighty-seventh and eighty-eighth meetings of the First Committee were devoted to the general discussion of the Korean question.

## II.

4. At the eighty-ninth meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presented two draft resolutions: one proposing the participation of the elected representatives of the Korean people in the discussion (document A/C.1/229), and the other proposing the withdrawal of the United States and Soviet Union troops from Korea at the beginning of 1948 (document A/C.1/232). Since the Soviet draft resolution concerning the invitation to elected Korean representatives to participate in the discussion was a procedural proposal, the Committee agreed to discuss this draft resolution first. The United States representative submitted an amendment to the Soviet Union draft resolution in which he proposed to establish forthwith a United Nations temporary commission on Korea in order to facilitate and expedite such participation and to ensure that the Korean representatives will in fact be duly elected by the Korean people and not mere appointees from military authorities in Korea (document A/C.1/230). An amendment proposed by China (document A/C.1/231) was accepted by the representative of the United States.

/5. At the

5. At the ninetieth meeting, the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic submitted an amendment (document A/C.1/234) to the amendment of the United States to the effect that the elected representatives of the Korean people be invited to take part in the consideration of the question in the First Committee and at the plenary meetings of the General Assembly. At the same meeting, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic introduced a draft resolution proposing that the First Committee should discuss the proposal and amendment of the United States at the time when the substance of the Korean question was discussed (document A/C.1/233).

6. The general debate was concluded at the ninetieth meeting on 30 October. As some of the representatives were of the opinion that the United States amendment should be regarded as a draft resolution, the Chairman put this question to the vote. The Committee decided by forty-three votes to six, with four abstentions that the United States proposal should be regarded as an amendment.

The resolution of the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was rejected by forty votes to six, with five abstentions.

The amendment of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics to the United States amendment was rejected by thirty-six votes to six, with nine abstentions.

After the rejection of the amendment of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the representatives of the Soviet Union, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Yugoslavia and Poland stated that, as the Korean question could not be discussed in the First Committee and the General Assembly without the participation of Korean representatives, they were unable to take part in the voting on the United States amendment or on amendments thereto.

The amendment of the United States, as amended by the representative of China, was voted upon in parts with the following results:

Paragraph 1: forty-one votes to none, with six abstentions;

Paragraph 2: forty-one votes to none, with four abstentions;

Paragraph 3: thirty-nine votes to none, with seven abstentions.

The whole amendment was adopted by forty-one votes to none, with seven abstentions.

The draft resolution of the Soviet Union was also put to the vote and was rejected by thirty-five to six, with ten abstentions.

A draft resolution submitted by the representative of the Soviet Union proposing that the examination of the Korean question be deferred was rejected by thirty-three votes to six, with twelve abstentions.

/7. The Committee

## III.

7. The Committee resumed, at the ninety-first meeting, the general debate on the substantive draft resolutions of the United States and the Soviet Union as contained in documents A/C.1/218 and A/C.1/232. The general debate continued until the ninety-third meeting inclusive, with the following countries participating in the discussion: Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Egypt, France, India, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

8. At the ninety-second meeting the representative of the United States presented a revised draft resolution (document A/C.1/218/Rev.1). Some of the provisions in this revised draft resolution included parts of the resolution adopted by the First Committee at its ninetieth meeting on 30 October 1947, while others incorporated suggestions made by several delegations during the previous debate. Three amendments to the revised United States draft resolution were introduced.

1. An amendment proposed by the Philippines stressed the necessity of avoiding unilateral action and intervention in Korea (document A/C.1/236).

2. An amendment proposed by India proposed to delete the provision that the elections should be held by the occupying Powers (A/C.1/237).

3. An amendment proposed by China stressed China's special interest in Korea and its desire to discharge its obligations under the Moscow Agreement (document A/C.1/238).

9. At the ninety-fourth meeting held on 5 November 1947 the Committee proceeded to vote on the Soviet draft resolution and the revised United States draft resolution, together with the amendments.

The draft resolution of the Soviet Union was rejected by twenty votes to six, with seven abstentions.

As a consequence of the rejection of the resolution of the Soviet Union, the representatives of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland, Yugoslavia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Czechoslovakia declared that, since the Korean question could not be discussed without the participation of Korean representatives, they would be unable to take part in the voting on the United States draft resolution or amendments thereto.

The amendment submitted by the representative of the Philippines was adopted by thirty-four votes to none, with three abstentions.

The amendment submitted by the representative of India was adopted by thirty-four votes to none, with four abstentions.

/The representative

The representative of China withdrew his amendment as contained in document A/C.1/238 and submitted two new amendments to the revised United States draft resolution (document A/C.1/218/Rev.1):

1. In paragraph 4, the second line, add the words: "in consultation with the Commission" after the words, "that government should".
2. In paragraph 5, the third line, delete the words "seek to" and add the words, "the fulfilment of" after the word "expedite".

In the meantime, the representative of France proposed to delete, in the first sentence of paragraph 5, the words: "the responsibilities assumed by the United Nations under this resolution should be discharged by" and also the word, "which" after the words "the Commission".

The Chinese amendment to paragraph 4 was adopted by thirty-two votes to none, with seven abstentions.

The Chinese amendment to paragraph 5, as further amended by the representative of France, was adopted by forty-four votes to none, with four abstentions.

The United States resolution, as amended, was adopted by forty-six votes to none, with four abstentions.

When the United States resolution was put to the vote, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic declared that his country could not take part in the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea as proposed in the United States resolution.

#### IV.

10. The First Committee recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolutions:

#### THE PROBLEM OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF KOREA

##### I.

INASMUCH AS the Korean question which is before the General Assembly is primarily a matter for the Korean people itself and concerns its freedom and independence; and

RECOGNIZING that this question cannot be correctly and fairly resolved without the participation of representatives of the indigenous population:

#### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

1. RESOLVES that elected representatives of the Korean people be invited to take part in the consideration of the question;
2. FURTHER RESOLVES that in order to facilitate and expedite such participation and to observe that the Korean representatives are in fact duly elected by the Korean people and not mere appointees from military authorities in Korea, there be forthwith established a

/United Nations

United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea, to be present in Korea, with right to travel, observe and consult throughout Korea.

II.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING the urgent and rightful claims to independence of the people of Korea;

BELIEVING that the national independence of Korea should be re-established and all occupying forces then withdrawn at the earliest practicable date;

RECALLING its previous conclusion that the freedom and independence of the Korean people cannot be correctly or fairly resolved without the participation of representatives of the Korean people, and its decision to establish a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (hereinafter called the "Commission") for the purpose of facilitating and expediting such participation by elected representatives of the Korean people:

1. DECIDES that the Commission shall consist of representatives of Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, France, India, Philippines, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic;
2. RECOMMENDS that the elections be held not later than 31 March 1948 on the basis of adult suffrage and by secret ballot to choose representatives with whom the Commission may consult regarding the prompt attainment of the freedom and independence of the Korean people and which representatives, constituting a National Assembly, may establish a National Government of Korea. The number of representatives from each voting area or zone should be proportionate to the population and the elections should be under the observation of the Commission;
3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that as soon as possible after the election, the National Assembly should convene and form a National Government and notify the Commission of its formation;
4. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that immediately upon the establishment of a National Government, that Government should, in consultation with the Commission (a) constitute its own national security forces and dissolve all military or semi-military formations not included therein; (b) take over the functions of government from the military commands and civilian authorities of north and south Korea; and (c) arrange with the occupying Powers for the complete withdrawal from Korea of their armed forces as early as practicable and if possible within ninety days;

/5. RESOLVES that

5. RESOLVES that the Commission shall facilitate and expedite the fulfilment of the foregoing programme for the attainment of the national independence of Korea and withdrawal of occupying forces, taking into account its observations and consultations in Korea. The Commission shall report, with its conclusions, to the General Assembly and may consult with the Interim Committee (if one be established) with respect to the application of this resolution in the light of developments;
6. CALLS upon the Member States concerned to afford every assistance and facility to the Commission in the fulfilment of its responsibilities;
7. CALLS upon all Members of the United Nations to refrain from interfering in the affairs of the Korean people during the interim period preparatory to the establishment of Korean independence, except in pursuance of the decisions of the General Assembly; and thereafter, to refrain completely from any and all acts derogatory to the independence and sovereignty of Korea.

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