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THE KOREAN QUESTION

- (a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
- (b) REPORTS OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS REPATRIATION COMMISSION IN KOREA
- (c) PROBLEM OF EX-PRISONERS OF THE KOREAN WAR

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos ECHEVERRI-CORTES (Colombia)

1. 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 21 August 1955, the Permanent Representative of India requested (A/2941) that the following items should be included in the supplementary list for the agenda of the tenth session of the General Assembly: "(a) Reports of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea; (b) Problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war". An explanatory memorandum (A/2941/Add.1) was submitted on 14 September.
3. On 7 September 1955, in accordance with its terms of reference, the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea submitted a report^{1/} covering the period from 17 August 1954 to 7 September 1955.

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 13, document A/2947.

4. At its 530th meeting on 30 September, the General Assembly included the report of the Commission and the two items submitted by India in the agenda of the tenth session, under the title: "The Korean question" as sub-items (a), (b) and (c) respectively, and referred the item to the First Committee for consideration and report.
5. In identical cablegrams (A/C.1/769) dated 31 October, addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the Secretary-General, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea requested that representatives of his Government should be given an opportunity to participate in the discussion of the item.
6. The First Committee considered the item at its 783rd to 793rd meetings, inclusive, held from 9 to 22 November.
7. At the 783rd meeting on 9 November, Syria submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.144) of which the operative part provided that the First Committee should decide to invite the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to send their representatives in order to state their views on the item.
8. At the 784th meeting on 10 November, the representative of the United States of America proposed orally that the First Committee should invite a representative of the Republic of Korea to participate without the right of vote in the consideration of the item, and moved that his proposal should be given priority in the vote.
9. At the same meeting the representative of Iraq submitted, but later withdrew, an oral amendment to the draft resolution of Syria (A/C.1/L.144) to delete the words: "and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".
10. Also at the same meeting, the representative of India submitted oral amendments to the Syrian draft resolution and to the United States oral proposal by which the invitation would be limited to participation in the discussion of sub-item (a). Syria accepted the amendment to its draft resolution.
11. At the 785th meeting on 11 November, the motion of the United States that priority in the vote should be given to its proposal was adopted by 38 votes to 14, with 6 abstentions.

Thereafter, the representative of Poland submitted orally an amendment to the United States proposal, providing for the inclusion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the invitation proposed by the United States. The submission of this amendment was ruled out of order by the Chairman.

The amendment of India to the United States proposal was rejected by 27 votes to 10, with 21 abstentions.

The United States proposal was adopted by 44 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.

The amended draft resolution of Syria was rejected by a roll call vote of 34 to 14, with 10 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Abstaining: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of India moved that sub-item (b): "Reports of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Korea", should not be discussed at the tenth session of the General Assembly.

The motion of India was adopted by 27 votes to none, with 29 abstentions.

13. At the 786th meeting, also on 11 November, the United States submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.145) which, after modification by its sponsor at the 789th meeting, provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly: (a) having noted the report of UNCURK of 7 September 1955; (b) recalling that, in resolution 811 (IX), in approving the report of the fifteen nations participating in the Geneva Conference in behalf of the United Nations, the Assembly had expressed the hope that it would soon prove possible to make progress towards achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and full restoration of international

peace and security in the area; and (c) noting that paragraph 62 of the Armistice Agreement provided that the Agreement was to remain in effect until expressly superseded, should: (1) reaffirm its intention to continue to seek an early solution of the Korean question in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations; (2) urge that continuing efforts should be made to achieve these objectives; and (3) request the Secretary-General to place the Korean Question on the provisional agenda of its eleventh session.

14. At the 787th meeting on 14 November, India submitted a draft resolution which, after revision (A/C.1/L.146/Rev.1), and a further modification submitted orally at the 793rd meeting, provided, inter alia, that the General Assembly, noting that a number of ex-prisoners of the Korean war remained temporarily in India, should: (1) note with appreciation that the Governments of Argentina and Brazil had offered to resettle as many of them as opted to settle in their respective countries, and that in respect of the offer of Brazil, consultations in regard to arrangements were taking place; (2) request Member Governments who were able to do so, to assist in bringing about a full solution of this problem by accepting for resettlement those not covered by the present offers; and (3) request the Government of India to report to the eleventh session of the General Assembly on this problem.

15. At the 792nd meeting on 21 November, Poland submitted an amendment (A/C.1/L.147) to the draft resolution of the United States (A/C.1/L.145), providing for the deletion of the words "in approving the report of the fifteen nations participating in the Geneva Conference in behalf of the United Nations" in the second paragraph of the preamble.

16. At the 793rd meeting on 22 November, the First Committee proceeded to vote, paragraph by paragraph, on the draft resolution of the United States and the amendment to it, as follows:

Preamble

The first paragraph of the preamble was adopted by 47 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

The amendment of Poland to the second paragraph was rejected by 39 votes to 9, with 8 abstentions.

The words "Recalling that in resolution 811 (IX)" in the second paragraph were adopted by 48 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

The words "in approving the report ... United Nations" in the second paragraph were adopted by 41 votes to 8, with 7 abstentions.

The remainder of the second paragraph was adopted by 51 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The second paragraph, as a whole, was adopted by 44 votes to one, with 11 abstentions.

The third paragraph was adopted by 52 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.
Operative part

Operative paragraphs 1 and 2, voted on separately, were both adopted by 54 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Paragraph 3 was adopted by 49 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

The draft resolution of the United States (A/C.1/L.145), as a whole, as modified by its sponsor, was adopted by 45 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.

The revised draft resolution of India (A/C.1/L.146/Rev.1), as modified by its sponsor, was adopted by 50 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

17. The First Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

THE KOREAN QUESTION

I

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

The General Assembly;

Having noted the report^{1/} of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea signed at Seoul, Korea, on 7 September 1955,

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 13, document A/2947.

Recalling that, in resolution 811 (IX) of 11 December 1954, in approving the report of the fifteen nations participating in the Geneva Conference in behalf of the United Nations, the General Assembly expressed the hope that it would soon prove possible to make progress towards achievement by peaceful means of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government and full restoration of international peace and security in the area.

Noting that paragraph 62 of the Armistice Agreement (A/2431) 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. Reaffirms its intention to continue to seek an early solution of the Korean question in accordance with the objectives of the United Nations;
2. Urges that continuing efforts be made to achieve these objectives;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to place the Korean question on the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the General Assembly.

II

PROBLEM OF EX-PRISONERS OF THE KOREAN WAR

The General Assembly,

Noting that, pending their final disposition, a number of ex-prisoners of the Korean war remain temporarily in India,

1. Notes with appreciation that the Governments of Argentina and Brazil have generously offered to resettle as many of them as opt to settle in their respective countries and that, in respect of the offer of Brazil, consultations in regard to arrangements are taking place;
2. Requests the Governments of Member States which are able to do so to assist in bringing about a full solution of this problem by accepting for resettlement those not covered by the present offers;
3. Requests the Government of India to report to the General Assembly at its eleventh session on this problem.
