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APPLICATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR ADMISSION
TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 21 April 1961 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General

Note by the Secretary-General: Pursuant to rule 136 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Members of the United Nations, a copy of a letter dated 21 April 1961 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea concerning the admission of the Republic of Korea to membership in the United Nations.

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 19 January 1949 from the Acting Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General applying for the Republic of Korea's admission to membership in the United Nations and a declaration accepting obligations under the Charter (United Nations Document S/1238, 1 February 1949).

The Republic of Korea enjoys special and unique relationship with the United Nations. The Republic of Korea was established through free elections held under the auspices of a United Nations commission, and its Government was recognized by the United Nations in 1948 as the only lawful Government in Korea. Further, since 1950 the Republic of Korea has become the symbol of collective security against aggression through the United Nations. The United Nations has repeatedly affirmed, through resolutions adopted by successive sessions of the General Assembly, its continuing interests in the just and peaceful unification of Korea.

The Republic of Korea is now playing an active role in the community of nations. It maintains diplomatic relations with forty-five countries and has been formally recognized by more than thirty nations. It is also a member of all specialized agencies except two. The number of international non-governmental organizations with which the Republic of Korea has been affiliated amounts to

sixty-three, covering virtually every phase of international non-governmental activities. These facts are eloquent testimony to the qualifications of the Republic of Korea for membership in the United Nations, as provided in Article 4 of the Charter. As early as in November 1949, the United Nations itself determined, in its resolution 296 G (IV) that:

the Republic of Korea is, in its judgement, a peace-loving State within the meaning of Article 4 of the Charter, is able and willing to carry out the obligations of the Charter, and should therefore be admitted to membership in the United Nations.

The application of the Republic of Korea has been denied by a negative vote of one permanent member of the Security Council, although the General Assembly has repeatedly recommended, by votes of overwhelming majorities, reconsideration of the application by the Security Council. As a result of the admission of the seventeen newly independent African nations and the Cyprus Republic during the current session, the United Nations now includes almost all the sovereign and independent States on the earth. Convinced that the membership in the United Nations by the Republic of Korea will materially contribute to the greater effectiveness of the United Nations, the Republic of Korea desires to have its voices added to those already admitted, and would reaffirm its declaration made in 1949 that it unreservedly accepts the obligations of the United Nations Charter and undertakes to honour them from the day when it becomes a Member of the United Nations.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I therefore formally request that the application of the Republic of Korea be resubmitted to the Security Council and the General Assembly in the sixteenth session for their favourable consideration. The admission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations will contribute an act of justice to the Korean people who have done so much to co-operate with the work of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, etc.,

(Signed) Yil Hyung Chyung
Minister of Foreign Affairs
