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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

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

Letter dated 22 August 1968 from the representatives of Cambodia,
Hungary, Mali and Syria to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-third regular session of the General Assembly of an item entitled: "Dissolution of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea" as a special item.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we forward to you herewith an explanatory memorandum.

(Signed) HUOT SAMPATH
Permanent Representative of Cambodia

(Signed) József TARDOS
Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary

(Signed) Mamadou Boubacar KANTE
Permanent Representative of Mali

(Signed) George TOMEH
Permanent Representative of Syria

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Korean question has been under consideration by the United Nations for almost twenty years, but no progress has been achieved, with the result that the unjust division of Korea into two separate States continues to this day. It would appear from a careful consideration of this question that the United Nations has failed in its purpose, since it has not thus far succeeded in promoting the reunification of Korea by peaceful means. On the contrary, it has been unable to prevent the development of a strong United States military entrenchment in South Korea in violation of the armistice agreements of 1953, while the prospects for reunification of the country have become more remote with every passing year.

2. The "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea", which was established at the fifth session of the General Assembly as a successor to the United Nations Commission on Korea, has become an instrument of the aggressive policies of the United States in Korea. Its activities run counter to the most legitimate interests of the Korean people. For proof of this, one need only refer to the reports which it submits annually to the General Assembly.

3. The continued existence of a commission serving the aggressive policies of the United States in Korea is in flagrant contradiction with the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

4. Consequently, if the United Nations genuinely desires the peaceful reunification of Korea, it is essential that the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of any country and the right of self-determination of peoples should be strictly respected.

5. In the view of our Governments, respect for this right and this principle is the essential condition for a solution of the Korean question. The only way in which it will be possible to end the division of Korea by peaceful means is by leaving the Korean people free to exercise their right of self-determination and refraining from intervening in their national affairs.

6. The "United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea", which was established in flagrant violation of the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, is one of the major obstacles to the unification of Korea. Its dissolution is therefore urgently necessary.

7. The question of the unification of Korea, which is temporarily divided, is a domestic matter that must be settled by negotiations between the two Koreas.