

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7227
4 December 1968
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Twenty-third session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN
THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

NEED TO PUT AN END TO THE DISCUSSION IN THE UNITED NATIONS ON
THE UNIFICATION OF KOREA

Letter dated 3 December 1968 from the Permanent Representative of
Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of the revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as an urgent and important matter, of an additional item entitled: "Need to put an end to the discussion in the United Nations on the unification of Korea".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, this request is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

I should be grateful if you would make the necessary arrangement for this letter and the memorandum to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. For more than twenty years the United Nations has been discussing the Korean question on the basis of the report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. It is obvious, however, that such discussions have not contributed to a solution of the problem and the Korean nation remains artificially divided.
2. The discussion of the unification of Korea not only has been ineffective but has complicated the solution of the problem and created new obstacles. The way in which the item is discussed each year, without the participation of representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a party which is directly concerned, affords proof that the procedure being followed does not contribute to the unification of the Korean people and can only aggravate the situation, thereby increasing tension in the area. This discriminatory attitude towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been condemned by numerous representatives of Member States who realize how arbitrary and profitless is the annual debate on the unification of the country.
3. The annual repetition of this sterile debate is damaging to the prestige of the United Nations, especially in view of the fact that the United Nations Charter itself, in Article 2, paragraph 7, expressly prohibits intervention in the internal affairs of States.
4. In addition, the United Nations lacks the moral authority to take part in this matter, since its flag has been and is being used by United States troops and troops of other countries which are occupying the territory of South Korea and using it for, among other things, their acts of provocation against the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
5. It is the firm conviction of my Government that the Korean people can by its own efforts achieve the peaceful and independent unification of the country. To this end foreign intervention in its internal affairs must cease and the people's sovereign right to self-determination must be recognized.
6. The General Assembly would be contributing to the cause of international peace and security if, at the present session, it decided to put an end to the discussion of the unification of Korea, which in the course of more than two decades has achieved no positive results. To do so would create more favourable conditions for the solution of the Korean problem.