



Seventh session
Agenda item 16 ~~(16)~~

KOREA: REPORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

Note by the President

The President of the General Assembly has the honour to transmit to the Members of the General Assembly a copy of a cablegram dated ~~31 March~~ 1953 which he has received from the Premier of the Government Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

25 April
CABLEGRAM DATED 31 MARCH 1953 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE PREMIER OF THE GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Peking, 31 March 1953

ENCLOSED HEREWITH THE FULL TEXT OF MY STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE
KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS ISSUED ON 30 MARCH 1953. PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE
FULL TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT TO ALL THE DELEGATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE UNITED NATIONS, EXCEPT THE SO-CALLED "DELEGATION" OF THE REMNANT CHINESE
KUOMINTANG CLIQUE - CHOU EN LAI, PREMIER OF THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
COUNCIL AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

STATEMENT OF CHOU EN LAI, PREMIER OF THE GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE QUESTION OF THE
KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS

THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HAVING JOINTLY STUDIED
THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY GENERAL MARK W. CLARK, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, ON 22 FEBRUARY 1953, CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF SICK
AND INJURED PRISONERS OF WAR OF BOTH SIDES DURING THE PERIOD OF HOSTILITIES, ARE
OF THE COMMON OPINION THAT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE
SETTLEMENT OF THIS QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 109 OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF 1949. A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF
EXCHANGING SICK AND INJURED PRISONERS OF WAR HAS CLEARLY A VERY SIGNIFICANT
BEARING UPON THE SMOOTH SETTLEMENT OF THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR.
IT IS THEREFORE OUR VIEW THAT THE TIME SHOULD BE CONSIDERED RIPE FOR SETTLING
THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE CESSATION OF

HOSTILITIES IN KOREA AND TO CONCLUDE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HOLD IN COMMON THAT THE DELEGATES OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS TO THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DELEGATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMAND TO THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY START NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGING SICK AND INJURED PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE PERIOD OF HOSTILITIES, AND SHOULD PROCEED TO SEEK AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

THE KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PAST ONE YEAR AND MORE HAVE ALREADY LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE REALIZATION OF AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA. IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT KAESONG AND PANMUNJOM, THE DELEGATES OF BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON ALL QUESTIONS, EXCEPT THAT OF PRISONERS OF WAR. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ON THE QUESTION OF A CEASE-FIRE IN KOREA, ABOUT WHICH THE WHOLE WORLD IS CONCERNED, BOTH SIDES HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT "THE COMMANDERS OF THE OPPOSING SIDES SHALL ORDER AND ENFORCE A COMPLETE CESSATION OF ALL HOSTILITIES IN KOREA BY ALL ARMED FORCES UNDER THEIR CONTROL, INCLUDING ALL UNITS AND PERSONNEL OF THE GROUND, NAVAL, AND AIR FORCES, EFFECTIVE TWELVE HOURS AFTER THIS ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED" (PARAGRAPH 12 OF THE DRAFT KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT^{1/}). SECONDLY, BOTH SIDES HAVE FURTHER REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE VARIOUS IMPORTANT CONDITIONS FOR AN ARMISTICE. ON THE QUESTION OF FIXING A MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE AND ESTABLISHING A DEMILITARIZED ZONE, BOTH SIDES HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT THE ACTUAL LINE OF CONTACT BETWEEN BOTH SIDES AT THE TIME WHEN THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT BECOMES EFFECTIVE SHALL BE MADE THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE AND THAT "BOTH SIDES SHALL WITHDRAW TWO KILOMETERS FROM THIS LINE SO AS TO ESTABLISH A DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN THE OPPOSING FORCES...AS A BUFFER ZONE TO PREVENT THE OCCURRENCE OF INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES" (PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE DRAFT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT). ON THE QUESTION OF SUPERVISING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AND SETTLING VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, BOTH SIDES HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT A MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION, COMPOSED OF FIVE SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE COMMANDER OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS, AND FIVE SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, SHALL BE SET UP TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR, AND FOR SETTling THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT (PARAGRAPHS 19, 20, 24, 25 and 56 OF THE DRAFT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT); BOTH SIDES HAVE ALSO AGREED THAT A NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION SHALL BE SET UP COMPOSED OF TWO SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTED AS REPRESENTATIVES BY POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NEUTRAL NATIONS NOMINATED JOINTLY BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE COMMANDER OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS, AND TWO SENIOR OFFICERS APPOINTED AS REPRESENTATIVES BY SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND, NEUTRAL NATIONS NOMINATED BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, AND THAT UNDER "THIS COMMISSION THERE SHALL BE PROVIDED NEUTRAL NATIONS INSPECTION TEAMS COMPOSED OF OFFICERS APPOINTED AS MEMBERS TO THE TEAMS BY THE AFOREMENTIONED NATIONS. THESE INSPECTION TEAMS SHALL BE STATIONED AT THE FOLLOWING PORTS OF ENTRY IN NORTH KOREA: SINULJU, CHONGJIN, HUNGNAM, MANPO, SINANJU, AND AT THE FOLLOWING PORTS OF ENTRY IN SOUTH KOREA: INCHON, DAEGU, PUSAN, KANGWUNG AND KUNSAN, TO SUPERVISE AND INSPECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS THAT BOTH SIDES CEASE THE INTRODUCTION INTO KOREA OF REINFORCING MILITARY PERSONNEL AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT, ARMoured VEHICLES, WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION (EXCEPT FOR ROTATION AND REPLACEMENT AS PERMITTED BY THESE PROVISIONS), AND MAY CONDUCT SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS AND INSPECTIONS AT THOSE PLACES OUTSIDE THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE WHERE VIOLATIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED, SO AS TO ENSURE THE STABILITY OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE (PARAGRAPHS 36, 37, 40, 41, 42 and 43 OF THE DRAFT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT)" IN ADDITION, BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT THAT "THE MILITARY COMMANDERS OF BOTH SIDES HEREBY RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ON BOTH SIDES THAT, WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED AND BECOMES EFFECTIVE, A POLITICAL CONFERENCE OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF BOTH SIDES BE HELD BY REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED RESPECTIVELY TO SETTLE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS THE QUESTIONS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM KOREA, THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, ETC" (PARAGRAPH 60 OF THE DRAFT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT).

AS STATED ABOVE, IN THE COURSE OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS, ONE QUESTION ALONE - THE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR - BLOCKS THE REALIZATION OF AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA. AND EVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR, BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON ALL THE PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ON THE ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO PRISONERS OF WAR, EXCEPT ON THE QUESTION

OF THE REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR. HAD THE KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED FOR MORE THAN FIVE MONTHS, A SOLUTION MIGHT LONG SINCE HAVE BEEN FOUND TO THIS ISSUE OF THE REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

NOW INASMUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND HAS PROPOSED TO SETTLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 109 OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION, THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGING SICK AND INJURED PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE PERIOD OF HOSTILITIES, WE CONSIDER THAT SUBSEQUENT UPON THE REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF SICK AND INJURED PRISONERS OF WAR, IT IS ENTIRELY A MATTER OF COURSE THAT A SMOOTH SOLUTION TO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR SHOULD BE ACHIEVED, PROVIDED THAT BOTH SIDES ARE PROMPTED BY REAL SINCERITY TO BRING ABOUT AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COMPROMISE.

REGARDING THE QUESTION OF PRISONERS OF WAR, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE ALWAYS HELD AND CONTINUE TO HOLD THAT A REASONABLE SOLUTION CAN ONLY LIE IN THE RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF WAR PRISONERS WITHOUT DELAY AFTER THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STIPULATIONS OF THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTION, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF ARTICLE 118 OF THE CONVENTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THIS QUESTION NOW CONSTITUTE THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO THE REALIZATION OF AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA, AND IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD FOR PEACE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IN PURSUANCE OF THEIR CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED PEACE POLICY AND THEIR POSITION OF CONSISTENTLY WORKING FOR THE SPEEDY REALIZATION OF AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA AND STRIVING FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION THUS TO PRESERVE AND CONSOLIDATE WORLD PEACE, ARE PREPARED TO TAKE STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE DIFFERENCES ON THIS QUESTION SO AS TO BRING ABOUT AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA. TO THIS END, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA PROPOSE THAT BOTH PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO REPATRIATE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES ALL THOSE PRISONERS OF WAR IN THEIR CUSTODY WHO INSIST UPON REPATRIATION AND TO HAND OVER THE REMAINING PRISONERS OF WAR TO A NEUTRAL STATE SO AS TO ENSURE A JUST SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF THEIR REPATRIATION.

IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADVANCING THIS PROPOSAL, WE BY NO MEANS RELINQUISH THE PRINCIPLE OF RELEASE AND REPATRIATION OF WAR PRISONERS WITHOUT DELAY AFTER THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 118 OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION, NOR DO WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE ASSERTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND THAT

THERE ARE AMONG THE PRISONERS OF WAR INDIVIDUALS WHO ALLEGEDLY REFUSE REPATRIATION. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE THE TERMINATION OF THE BLOODY WAR IN KOREA AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION IS BOUND UP WITH THE QUESTION OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FAR EAST AND THE WORLD THAT WE TAKE THIS NEW STEP AND PROPOSE THAT AFTER THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, THOSE CAPTURED PERSONNEL OF OUR SIDE WHO, UNDER THE INTIMIDATION AND OPPRESSION OF THE OPPOSITE SIDE, ARE FILLED WITH APPREHENSIONS AND ARE AFRAID TO RETURN HOME, BE HANDED OVER TO NEUTRAL STATE AND THAT EXPLANATIONS BE GIVEN THEM BY THE SIDE CONCERNED, THUS ENSURING THAT THE QUESTION OF THEIR REPATRIATION WILL BE JUSTLY SETTLED AND WILL NOT OBSTRUCT THE REALIZATION OF AN ARMISTICE IN KOREA.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS NEW STEP TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOR TERMINATING THE HOSTILITIES IN KOREA IS IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES WHOSE SONS ARE FIGHTING ON BOTH SIDES IN KOREA AND IS ALSO IN COMPLETE ACCORD WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD. IF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND HAS THE GOOD FAITH TO SEEK PEACE, THIS PROPOSAL OF OUR SIDE OUGHT TO BE ACCEPTED BY IT.
PEKING, 30 MARCH 1953.