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THE KOREAN QUESTION

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Members of the General Assembly the text of a cablegram dated 14 September 1953 which he has received from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

53-25657

CABLEGRAM DATED 14 SEPTEMBER 1953 FROM THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Pyongyang, 14 September 1953

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS OF 28 AUGUST 1953 ON THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE ON KOREA, THE CONVENING OF WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED IN THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO SEND THE FOLLOWING REPLY:

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE IS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PURPOSES LAID DOWN FOR THAT CONFERENCE, THE FUNCTION OF WHICH IS TO MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN ASIA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FOR THE MAIN PROVISION OF THE SAID RESOLUTIONS IS THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THOSE COUNTRIES ON EITHER SIDE WHOSE FORCES TOOK PART IN THE KOREAN WAR.

THE TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 60 OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IN NO WAY IMPLIES THAT ONLY THOSE COUNTRIES WHOSE ARMED FORCES TOOK PART IN THE HOSTILITIES IN KOREA MAY BE MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE AND THAT NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ARE DEBARRED FROM TAKING PART IN IT.

PARAGRAPH 60 OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE IS TO BE ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES APPOINTED BY BOTH SIDES TO SETTLE, THROUGH NEGOTIATION, IN THE FIRST PLACE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN ARMED FORCES FROM KOREA AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION, AND THEREAFTER OTHER QUESTIONS.

SINCE THE CONFERENCE IS TO CONSIDER THESE VITAL QUESTIONS, WHICH ARE OF IMMENSE SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY FOR BRINGING ABOUT A GENUINE PEACE IN KOREA BUT ALSO FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE IN ASIA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND SINCE THE CONFERENCE'S TASK IS DIFFERENT FROM THE TASKS OF THE ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH ARE SOLELY CONCERNED WITH PURELY MILITARY MATTERS, THE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE OF CERTAIN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE KOREAN

WAR AND ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND IN THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE IN ASIA IS OF IMMENSE VALUE FOR THE WORKING OUT OF DECISIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, WHICH LEAVE THE ABOVE FACTS OUT OF ACCOUNT, INVOLVE A CONTRADICTION.

BY ITS SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTION ON PARTICIPATION, IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, WHICH IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS NEUTRAL, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADMITTED THE DESIRABILITY OF THE PARTICIPATION OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES IN THE CONFERENCE.

YET IN SPITE OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST WHICH THE NEUTRAL STATES OF ASIA HAVE IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE ON KOREA, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE STATES AT THE CONFERENCE. THE RESOLUTION EXCLUDES EVEN INDIA, ALTHOUGH THAT COUNTRY'S INCLUSION HAS BEEN VOTED FOR IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMPRISING A LARGE NUMBER OF THE ASIAN COUNTRIES, OF THE ARAB STATES AND OF THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, BUT NOT THE UNITED STATES AND VARIOUS OF ITS SUPPORTERS.

SUCH A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE IS, OF COURSE, INCAPABLE OF SECURING THE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS ENTRUSTED TO THE CONFERENCE.

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS THAT THE RESOLUTION ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE OUGHT NOT TO BE ADOPTED AS THE BASIS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE CONFERENCE, AND REPEATS THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIEWS ALREADY EXPRESSED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE, WHICH WOULD, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND IN STRENGTHENING PEACE IN ASIA, SOLVE THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO THE CONFERENCE AND SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA WELCOMES AS A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, IN ITS CAPACITY AS A NEUTRAL PARTY WHICH HAS SHOWN SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THE

STRENGTHENING OF PEACE IN ASIA, THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO SECURE A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS IT INDISPENSABLE TO INCLUDE IN THE CONFERENCE THE ASIAN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE DIRECTLY INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN ASIA; MORE ESPECIALLY, IN ORDER TO BRING THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO INCLUDE INDIA, WHICH MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN KOREA AND WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER REAL HELP IN SOLVING QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN ASIA.

THE INCONSISTENT AND FUTILE CHARACTER OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS EVIDENTLY CONNECTED WITH THE FACT THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE STILL DEPRIVED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING PART IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALSO WITH ALL DUE EARNESTNESS STRESSES THE FACT THAT THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE CANNOT BE SOLVED UNILATERALLY, BUT ONLY BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN BOTH SIDES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONSIDERS IT INDISPENSABLE THAT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD, AFTER REMOVING THE DEFECTS CONTAINED IN THE DECISIONS TAKEN AT ITS PRECEDING SESSION ON THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO SOLVE THE QUESTION OF A CONFERENCE, BEARING IN MIND THAT THE ADHESION TO IT OF NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WILL HAVE IMMENSE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR ITS LABOURS.

IN CONNEXION WITH THIS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FULLY SUPPORTING THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE ANSWER OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, CHOU EN-LAI, TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1953,^{1/} REGARDING THE RESOLUTION OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL

^{1/} A/2469.

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE KOREAN QUESTION, MAKES THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AMONG THOSE TAKING PART IN THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE ALL COUNTRIES WHICH WERE ENGAGED IN THE KOREAN WAR; AND ALSO TO INVITE, IN THE CAPACITY OF SPECIALLY INTERESTED NEUTRAL REPUBLICS, INDIA, INDONESIA, PAKISTAN AND BURMA.

THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE MUST ASSUME THE FORM OF A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE AND ITS DECISIONS MUST BE AGREED TO UNANIMOUSLY BY BOTH SIDES ENGAGED IN THE KOREAN WAR.

IN ORDER TO REACH A REASONABLE SOLUTION OF THE QUESTION OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE, THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS MUST DISCUSS AND AGREE ON THE QUESTION OF WIDENING THE BASIS OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

AFTER DETERMINING BY NEGOTIATIONS THE QUESTION OF ENLARGING THE BASIS OF THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE BOTH SIDES WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE KOREAN WAR MUST IMMEDIATELY DISCUSS AND DETERMINE THE PLACE AND DATE OF THE CONFERENCE.

I ASK THAT THE TEXT OF THE PRESENT REPLY SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF ALL COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS AWAITING THE ANSWER OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS -
LI DON GEN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PYONGYANG, 14 SEPTEMBER 1953
