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

URGENT NEED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE CONSENSUS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AND TO
TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Letter dated 3 September 1974 from the representatives of Japan,
the Netherlands, New Zealand, Thailand, the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of
America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request, under rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of an item entitled "Urgent need to implement fully the consensus of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the Korean question and to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution are attached.

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. If the General Assembly is to discuss the Korean question, it is both important and urgent that it do so in a balanced way which fully takes into account all relevant aspects of the situation in Korea. It is essential that such debate should be held in a manner consistent with the consensus of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly and with the need to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula.
2. The history of the Korean question, which is of great importance to any further debate on the Korean question at the United Nations, may be usefully summarized as follows:
 - (a) The United Nations has been involved with the question of Korea for over a quarter of a century. Since 1947, the General Assembly in numerous resolutions has continuously reaffirmed that its objective is "to bring about, by peaceful means, the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government". In 1948 the Republic of Korea was established under the auspices of the United Nations.
 - (b) In June 1950, approximately one year after the complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Republic of Korea, war broke out on the Korean peninsula. In response to a call issued by the Security Council, 16 Member States from five continents sent forces to assist in the defence of South Korea. The United Nations Command was established in accordance with a resolution of the Security Council on 7 July 1950.
 - (c) In 1953 the Korean Armistice Agreement was concluded. Since then, the United Nations Command, as a signatory to the Armistice Agreement, has continued to play a vital role in maintaining peace and security on the Korean peninsula. The United Nations Command is present in Korea at the request of the Government of the Republic of Korea and has not interfered in the internal affairs of the host country.
 - (d) On 4 July 1972, with the issuance of the South-North Joint Communiqué, dialogue between the two parts of Korea was opened for the first time in a quarter of a century. The purpose of this dialogue has been to achieve the independent and peaceful unification of Korea.

3. Against this background, the General Assembly last year reached a consensus 1/ which achieved the unanimous support of all Member States. In this consensus, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the issuance of the joint communiqué by the South and the North of Korea and expressed the general hope that they would be urged to continue their dialogue and widen their many-sided exchanges and co-operation. The consensus also included the dissolution of UNCURK. Both the South and the North of Korea fully endorsed this consensus.

4. The only part of this consensus implemented so far has been the dissolution of UNCURK. The South-North dialogue, however, has made no substantial progress in spite of repeated proposals from the South Korean side to engage in substantive discussions. At the same time there have been serious incidents which have tended to exacerbate existing tensions on the Korean peninsula. It is therefore necessary that the remaining part of the consensus urging dialogue between the two parts of Korea be implemented.

5. It is for the above reasons that the signatories of this letter request the inclusion in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Urgent need to implement fully the consensus of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the Korean question and to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula".

6. It is our belief that the attached draft resolution is the most realistic and constructive step which the General Assembly could take in order to assist the parties directly concerned to move towards the goal of peaceful unification of Korea which the United Nations has always sought and is still encouraging.

1/ At its 2181st plenary meeting, on 28 November 1973, the General Assembly adopted without objection, as the consensus of its Members, the following text recommended by the First Committee:

"It is noted with satisfaction that a joint communiqué was issued by the North and the South of Korea on 4 July 1972, which provides for the following three principles on the reunification of Korea:

"(a) The reunification of the country should be achieved independently, without reliance upon outside force or its interference;

"(b) The reunification of the country should be achieved by peaceful means, without recourse to the use of arms against the other side;

"(c) Great national unity should be promoted.

"It is the general hope that the South and the North of Korea will be urged to continue their dialogue and widen their many-sided exchanges and co-operation in the above spirit so as to expedite the independent peaceful reunification of the country.

"The General Assembly decides to dissolve immediately the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea." /Note contained in the original text./

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Desiring that progress be made towards the attainment of the goal of peaceful reunification of Korea on the basis of the freely expressed will of the Korean people,

Recalling its satisfaction with the issuance of the joint communiqué at Seoul and Pyongyang on 4 July 1972 and the declared intention of both the South and the North of Korea to continue the dialogue between them,

Aware, however, that tension in Korea has not been totally eliminated and that the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 remains indispensable to the maintenance of peace and security in the area,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security, the United Nations has a continuing responsibility to ensure the attainment of this goal on the Korean peninsula,

1. Reaffirms the wishes of its members, as expressed in the consensus statement adopted by the General Assembly on 28 November 1973, and urges both the South and the North of Korea to continue their dialogue to expedite the peaceful reunification of Korea;

2. Expresses the hope that the Security Council, bearing in mind the need to ensure continued adherence to the Armistice Agreement and the full maintenance of peace and security in the area, will in due course give consideration, in consultation with the parties directly concerned, to those aspects of the Korean question, including the future of the United Nations Command, which fall within its responsibility.
