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Chairman: Mr. Franz MATSCH (Austria).

**AGENDA ITEM 26**

**The Korean question: report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (A/4187, A/C.1/822, A/C.1/823, A/C.1/L.245)(concluded)**

**GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.1/L.245) (concluded)**

1. Mr. ROBERTSON (United States of America) said that there was little hope for real progress towards a solution of the Korean question so long as one side refused to enter into the kind of negotiations which could be expected to bring unity, freedom and peace to all of Korea. Directing his remarks particularly to the representative of Ceylon, he recalled that, both before the communist attack in 1950 and at the Korean Political Conference, held at Geneva in 1954, the United States and the United Nations had persistently endeavoured to secure the agreement of the Soviet authorities to the peaceful unification of Korea. He assured the First Committee that the United States would like nothing better than to begin meaningful negotiations towards that goal. The present deadlock on the question was due not to unwillingness to negotiate but to the stubborn insistence of the communist authorities that the United Nations was the aggressor in Korea, that its resolutions were null and void and that it had lost all competence and moral authority to deal fairly with the Korean problem. The United Nations could not accept that indictment.

2. He would point out to the representative of Ceylon that United States troops were in Korea as part of the forces of the United Nations Command and in response to United Nations resolutions. The argument that those forces could be withdrawn without adverse consequences should be weighed against past experience: in June 1949 the United States had accepted in good faith the Soviet Union's proposal that the troops of both nations should be withdrawn from the two parts of Korea only to find that, less than one year later, the Republic of Korea had been exposed to a communist attack without warning. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 376 (V) of 7 October 1950 had specifically recommended that United Nations forces should remain

in the country until it had been unified in accordance with United Nations principles.

3. The United States would welcome an impartial comparison between the economic conditions in the two parts of Korea. Such a comparison might perhaps confirm the argument that the economic situation in North Korea was vastly superior to that in the south of the country. However, the facts could only be ascertained if UNCURK were allowed to move about as freely in North Korea as it had been from the outset in the Republic of Korea.

4. The United States delegation was disappointed by the failure of the Soviet Union to advance in the direction of a peaceful solution of the Korean question, but it was not abandoning hope that the question would eventually be solved within the framework of the United Nations. Adoption of the fourteen-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.245) represented the best way for the United Nations to reaffirm its authority and to record its views regarding the method of achieving a just settlement. The draft resolution reaffirmed the two fundamental principles that the United Nations was competent to deal with the problem and that no equitable solution was possible without genuinely free elections held under effective supervision in accordance with the principles endorsed by the General Assembly. It was particularly disappointing that no progress had been made towards the objective of a peaceful, unified and democratic Korea and that the United Nations, acting under its Charter, was still being denounced as lacking moral authority in the matter. The United States still hoped that the communist authorities would see fit to respond in a positive and constructive manner.

5. Mr. SASTROAMIDJOJO (Indonesia) noted that one of the major objectives reaffirmed by the General Assembly each year was the reunification of Korea by peaceful means. The expression "peaceful means" must be understood to mean negotiations among the parties concerned, or mediation or some similar procedure as laid down in the Charter for the peaceful solution of international problems. No negotiations had, however, taken place since the Korean Political Conference in 1954, even though negotiations were essential before the two principles endorsed by the Conference as a basis for a Korean settlement could be implemented. It was a mistake to insist on the acceptance of the principles before procedural talks could be held for carrying them out. The very fact that such talks were held, and the outcome of such talks, would give proof of adherence to the principles of the United Nations.

6. Inasmuch as the principal task of the United Nations was to promote the reunification of Korea through negotiations, the first step towards that end was to create a climate of reconciliation. Such a climate could surely not be established by emphasizing divisive forces or endorsing the recriminations of one side

against the other. The United States charge that the communist side refused to consider unification except on conditions which would lay all of Korea open to communist military attack, and the Soviet counter-charge that the United States would not consent to unification unless the reactionary order established by foreign forces in the south of the country was extended to North Korean Territory, could only exacerbate the situation. A solution must be brought about by the Korean people themselves with the assistance of the United Nations.

7. It was the responsibility of the United Nations to dispel the bitter atmosphere in which the question was being discussed, to hear the views of both parties concerned and to apply itself solely to the task of bringing them together. For that reason, Indonesia regretted the Committee's failure to invite a representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to participate in its debate. It would support every effort to create a new atmosphere in which negotiations for a solution could proceed, but it would abstain in the vote on the fourteen-Power draft resolution because it did not believe that the draft achieved that end.

8. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States (A/C.1/L.245).

*A vote was taken by roll-call.*

*Belgium having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.*

In favour: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland,

Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Australia, Austria.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Albania.

Abstaining: Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 49 votes to 9, with 19 abstentions.*

*Mr. Cho, representative of the Republic of Korea, withdrew.*

**Order of discussion of agenda items (A/C.1/816)**  
**(concluded)\***

9. The CHAIRMAN said that consultation with various members of the Committee appeared to indicate that the question of Algeria should be the next item for consideration, to be followed by the item "Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space". If there was no objection, debate on the question of Algeria would begin at the following meeting.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.

\*Resumed from the 1060th meeting.