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Chairman: Mr. Victor A. BELAUNDE (Peru).

***Tribute to the memory of Dr. Theodor Koerner,
President of the Republic of Austria***

1. The CHAIRMAN regretted to inform the Committee that the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Theodor Koerner, had passed away. Two significant events had taken during the presidency of Dr. Koerner: the signing of the State Treaty for the Re-establishment of an Independent and Democratic Austria, which provided for the withdrawal of occupation forces, and subsequently the admission of Austria to the United Nations.

2. He felt sure that he expressed the views of all members of the Committee when he said that the passing of that distinguished statesman was a great loss to world democracy. He then invited the members of the Committee to rise for a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of President Koerner.

The representatives stood in silence.

3. Mr. MATSCH (Austria) expressed to the Chairman and to the members of the Committee the sincere gratitude of his delegation for the kind words of sympathy and condolence extended to the Austrian delegation and the Austrian people.

AGENDA ITEM 21

The Korean question (A/3172, A/3203, A/C.1/L.158) (*continued*):

(a) **Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea;**

(b) **Problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war: report of the Government of India**

4. Sir Pierson DIXON (United Kingdom) hoped that the Committee could avoid a contentious debate, which would not serve the aims of the United Nations in Korea. Referring to the statement of the representative of the United States at the 815th meeting with regard to the vital concern of the United Nations in the Korean problem, the sufferings of the Korean people and the heavy casualties which the United Nations forces had incurred in Korea, he could not share the view expressed by the representative of Greece at the 813th meeting

to the effect that the problem of Korea was one which had slipped into the background. Nor could he share the opinion expressed at the same meeting by the representative of the Soviet Union that consideration of the question could be deferred. On the contrary, it would be quite wrong for the United Nations to abdicate its interest in the question, with regard to which the United Nations had shown itself able to take effective action in the defence of its Purposes and Principles.

5. The task of the United Nations was now to ensure that the armistice remained in force until it was superseded by a general political settlement, and to establish a unified, independent, and democratic Korea by peaceful means. The principles for a Korean settlement, enunciated at the Korean Political Conference held in Geneva in 1954, had been rejected by the Communist side, but had since twice been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 811 (IX) and 910 A (X). The unaltered position of the Communist side in the matter was no reason for inaction or complacency on the part of the United Nations.

6. The draft resolution submitted by the United States (A/C.1/L.158) reflected closely the position of the United Kingdom Government, and his delegation would vote for it.

7. With regard to the report of the Government of India on the problem of ex-prisoners of the Korean war (A/3203), he wished to pay tribute to the part which that Government had played in the matter, as well as to the generosity of the Governments of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina in offering to resettle those ex-prisoners.

8. The United Kingdom delegation looked forward to the early admission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

9. Baron GAIFFIER O'HESTROY (Belgium) said that the delegation of Belgium remained firmly convinced that the unification of Korea could be achieved only on the basis of genuinely free elections under effective and impartial supervision. Since, however, no progress could be achieved toward that end because of the intransigent stand taken by the Powers which, militarily and politically, controlled North Korea, a reopening of the debate would seem to be superfluous. It should merely be stated that the solution of the question was simple; it lay in recognizing the principle which the events of yesterday in Korea and of today in Hungary had brought to the fore, namely, the right of peoples to self-determination.

10. Belgium supported the objectives sought in the draft resolution submitted by the United States and would therefore vote in favour of that draft.

11. Mr. MACKAY (Canada) said that, although the prospect of the unification of Korea was not much closer at the present session than it had been at the preceding session, it should be recognized that it would take time to reduce the tensions and to allay the passions which

were the inevitable result of the conflict. The United Nations should not relax its efforts to bring about a settlement.

12. There were grounds to rejoice in the fact that the armistice had been maintained and that the Korean people had been able to devote their remarkable energies to the economic rehabilitation of their country and, in the South, to hold free elections. He wished that it were possible to note with satisfaction economic and political progress in the North as well, or even some reflection of the restless hunger for independence which had been a notable feature of many other Communist régimes during the past year.

13. The Canadian delegation was as much convinced now as it had been during the previous session that the United Nations must not allow any unreasonable stubbornness to stand in the way of negotiations which might lead to a settlement. Stubborn it must be in insisting on certain principles fundamental to unification. Unification must ensure a union freely entered into and must establish, in the words of the United Nations objectives, "a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a representative form of government". The United Nations could not under any circumstances agree to a union achieved by political subterfuge or one by which the rights of the majority were less than those of a minority.

14. On the means of achieving such a union, however, the United Nations need not be so rigid. It must recognize certain inescapable factors in the situation. It was not faced with a situation in which it could impose a settlement. A settlement would have to be negotiated just as the armistice had been negotiated. The United Nations must not back away from its most honourable work, the process of conciliation and pacification. Useful work had been done at the Korean Political Conference and since, but the Geneva proposals should not be regarded as a final ultimatum. The Canadian Government would not object if some one produced new and satisfactory proposals which were not necessarily in strict conformity with what had been thought the best procedure in 1954. However, a new procedure would certainly have to be one acceptable to the General Assembly. Although the implication could not be accepted that there was moral or even substantial equality between the Republic of Korea and the régime of North Korea, the political realities as they existed must be dealt with in the peacetime phase of the Korean question. Thus, if there was to be unification, all those in Korea who must be parties to the settlement would have to be gathered into the process of negotiation. Therefore, his delegation had not opposed the Indian proposal at the 814th meeting to invite representatives of both North and South Korea.

15. The Canadian delegation considered that the draft resolution submitted by the United States was consistent with the principles which must be the basis for the settlement.

16. Mr. DE FREITAS VALLE (Brazil) stated that it was a cause of deep concern that the Korean question, a most fundamental issue for the preservation of peace and security in the world, had not yet been settled in accordance with the principles laid down by the United Nations. Any unbiased observer could not fail to admit that that most unfortunate state of affairs was the sole responsibility of those who had taken military action against the Republic of Korea and had thus forced the United Nations to resist aggression.

17. The North Korean authorities now continued to block the way to the unification of Korea and to oppose the holding of free elections on a democratic basis. Most reliable sources indicated that North Korea, in clear violation of the Armistice Agreement (S/3079, appendix A), was pursuing a constant build-up of military strength in its territory. That extremely grave situation might further deteriorate at any moment, with unforeseeable consequences. The Republic of Korea had expressed its justified concern. The Armistice Agreement was being observed on the part of the United Nations alone, and that was a most regrettable fact. The North Korean authorities had expressed a wish for contact between North and South outside the United Nations, but had shown no signs of their acceptance of the principles upon which the United Nations believed peace should be based. Although it was possible in some instances to favour contacts between opposing parties outside the framework of the United Nations, the best possible way to achieve a just settlement of the Korean question must be found within the United Nations in view of the part played by the Organization in the conflict.

18. Regarding the question of the ex-prisoners of the Korean war, he stated that all those prisoners who had emigrated to Brazil were completely satisfied and were being rapidly integrated into a free and happy life. He recalled that the Government of India had reported that a small number of ex-prisoners who wished to emigrate to other countries were still being held in custody, pending the conclusion of the necessary arrangements for their ultimate settlement. He hoped that those arrangements would be concluded in the shortest possible period of time.

19. His delegation was in full sympathy with the United States draft resolution, but reserved the right to comment on it at a later stage in the debate.

20. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) said that his country had been deeply concerned with the Korean question since the beginning of the conflict and had assisted South Korea by sending economic aid as well as troops. Thailand wished to see Korea reunited and restored to full and undivided nationhood.

21. The United Nations had proposed and still maintained that that aim could be achieved only on the basis of an independent and democratic Korea, in which genuinely free elections would be held, under United Nations supervision, for representatives to the Korean National Assembly, who would be elected in direct proportion to the indigenous population of Korea. If the North Korean authorities were as democratic and devoted to the interests of the Korean people as they claimed, they could never object to such a basis.

22. During the debate on the proposal to invite a representative of North Korea to participate in the Committee's discussion of the item (814th meeting), some representatives had considered the presence of a North Korean representative essential so that negotiations might be carried on in order to reach through compromise a settlement of the problem. He wondered what kind of compromise those representatives had in mind. Could the United Nations, for instance, ask the Government of the Republic of Korea to surrender the attributes of its sovereignty and place itself under the sway of North Korea? Would the compromise be on a free system of elections, or would it be on representation in the National Assembly, in which North Korea claimed equal representation? Any of those compromises might unite Korea in appearance, but in fact the

country would be an uncoalesced entity of two irreconcilable halves. The ultimate result would be either the absorption or the suppression of the Republic of Korea by superior force of arms supplied from outside, and North Korea would achieve the end it had sought through armed aggression but had not attained because of the timely collective action of the United Nations. Obviously the Organization could not accept such compromises, since that would mean the end of the United Nations and the betrayal of all who had sacrificed their lives for a worthy cause.

23. The only course left for the United Nations was to maintain its present righteous position. While he hoped that the pressure of world public opinion would convince the other side of the unreasonableness of its demands, he urged that the Republic of Korea should be strengthened in every conceivable way. The

Korean nation had effected, with the aid of the United States and many other nations, a remarkable recovery in many fields. He wished the Koreans still greater success in their task of recovery and rehabilitation.

24. Sir Leslie MUNRO (New Zealand), speaking on a point of order, observed that the seating arrangement in the Committee room appeared to be rather unfavourable to certain delegations, which at times had difficulty in catching the eye of the Chairman. He urged that delegations be moved along one seat each day on a system of rotation.

25. The CHAIRMAN stated that the Secretariat was studying the problem and that he would transmit the suggestion to the Secretariat with a view to rendering the seating arrangement as convenient and as practical as possible.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.