

“For the Peaceful
Unification of the Country”

**Documents
on the Sixth Session of the Second
Supreme People's Assembly of the D.P.R.K.**

1959

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Editorial Board

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**REPORT ON THE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION
OF THE FATHERLAND DELIVERED BY VICE-
PREMIER NAM IL AT THE SIXTH SESSION
OF THE SECOND SUPREME PEOPLE'S
ASSEMBLY**

October 26, 1959

Comrade Deputies,

In view of the new, deep-going changes in the present situation at home and abroad, the question of putting an end to the split of our country and of peacefully unifying our fatherland has become an urgent issue which brooks no further delay.

For nearly 15 years the Korean people have been living in extreme misfortunes and sufferings due to the division of the country.

The division of the country is creating grave obstacles to the overall political, economic and cultural development in our country.

The division of the country makes it impossible to utilize rationally the rich resources of the northern and southern parts of our country in the production and construction and to use them in a unified way for the well-being of the entire people of North and South Korea.

Because of the split, the Korean people cannot display as a whole all their wisdom and talents for the development of science and culture.

The division not only impairs and impedes the economic, scientific and cultural development of North and South Korea, but brings unbearable sufferings to all the Korean people even in their social and private life.

All relations between the divided North and South Korea have been completely cut off due to the artificial barrier.

Separated in the North and South, our parents, brothers, wives and children, relatives and friends cannot even hear from each other, though at a short distance.

This is really an unbearable, great national misfortune for the Korean people who are a homogeneous people and have lived harmoniously in one and the same territory throughout a long history.

The North and South Korean people are inseparable brothers and sisters in whose veins runs the blood of the same ancestors.

Although the artificial barrier can temporarily bar the way between North and South Korea, it cannot stop the kindred feeling which the fellow countrymen entertain toward each other.

Through unified economy and culture, and through common language and customs of life, the Korean people have formed themselves into one inseparable body, and so are they now.

Therefore, today the entire people of North and South Korea are grieved over the division of the country more than anything else, and are impatiently longing for the unification of the fatherland.

Achieving the peaceful unification of the divided country—this is the cardinal, nation-wide task of the entire Korean people and a burning desire which does not leave their minds even for a minute.

Reunion of separated family members and living in harmony in a unified, independent and prospering fatherland is the ardent wish of our people, which nobody can bar, and their inflexible national aspiration.

Today, all the internal and international situation shows ever more clearly that the peaceful unification of our country is an urgent question, which can be put off no longer.

Recently, a more serious change has taken place in the situation created in the southern half of our country.

The social and economic situation in South Korea is going headlong toward an irrevocable catastrophe.

The national economy of South Korea has been totally destroyed.

Now one can hardly find in the South Korean industry such key industrial branches as producing pig iron and chemical fertilizers.

Speaking of even the few remaining medium and small enterprises, about 80 per cent of them have suspended operation or are operating on a part time basis.

As a result of the complete ruin of industry, the rural economy became the main object of plunder by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique.

But today, the rural economy of South Korea, too, is faced with overall bankruptcy.

The total grain yield has decreased by 40 per cent as compared with that in the days of Japanese imperialism.

South Korea, which used to produce about twice as much grain as North Korea at the time of Japanese imperialism, is now unable to produce even half of the per capita grain output of North Korea and has to import over 5 million suk of grain every year.

This is attributable to the U.S. imperialists who have

seized the artery of the South Korean economy and subjugated it entirely to the implementation of their aggressive policy and their colonial predatory policy.

Such catastrophe in the economic life is further aggravating the living of the South Korean people.

The South Korean working people who can barely subsist even if they work hard are now confronted with a critical situation in which they cannot even find a job although they want to work.

The number of the unemployed and semi-unemployed has already reached more than half of the number of able-bodied men and women of South Korea.

In the rural districts of South Korea which have turned into a region of serious famine, millions of foodless peasants, whose number is sharply increasing every year, are suffering on the verge of starvation.

The South Korean people have now sunk into the depths of misery.

The South Korean people who can no longer subsist under such circumstances have come to realize more and more keenly the root cause of the enormous sufferings they are undergoing.

The anti-American and anti-Syngman Rhee feeling is rising higher and higher among the South Korean people of all strata.

To cope with the increasing anti-American and anti-Syngman Rhee sentiment of the popular masses, the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee authorities are further intensifying the fascist oppression.

The number of people they arrested and imprisoned during the past one year alone reached 240,000.

But this is only further isolating the U.S. imperialists

and the Syngman Rhee ruling circles from the broad sections of the masses and merely demonstrates that they can no longer maintain their regime as it is.

In face of the overall economic catastrophe and the resolute opposition and repudiation by the popular masses, the political crisis of the Syngman Rhee rule has been further aggravated.

The sharp friction and antagonism, mutual hostility and prejudice, extreme corruption and confusion within the South Korean ruling circles have further been aggravated and become irrevocable.

The colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists is bringing about evil consequences not only in the social and economic life of the South Korean people but also in the domain of national culture.

In South Korea, the national culture is trodden upon and on the wane. Because of the division of the country, even the language inherent to the Korean people has undergone changes in diverse ways.

The American way of life and the misanthropic ideas which have infiltrated into South Korea are ruining the morality and virtue in the South Korean society and defiling the beautiful manners and customs.

Moreover, the U.S. imperialist aggressive forces are committing more and more atrocities against our South Korean compatriots as the days go by, subjecting them to intolerable national contempt and humiliation.

In this way, darkness and degradation, unrest and fear are prevailing in the whole South Korean society to-day.

All the Koreans with conscience cannot but lament such grave situation created in South Korea.

The wanton destruction of the national economy and

the humiliation of national culture in South Korea must be stopped immediately and the South Korean people must be relieved from the acute sufferings without delay.

All the conditions created in South Korea today form a sharp contrast to the magnificent realities in the northern half of our Republic.

In the past period, in the northern half of our Republic, great turns and changes have been effected which are without precedent in the history of our nation.

Under the wise guidance of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of our Republic headed by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the people in the northern half of the Republic have entered the period of an unprecedented prosperity and leap forward.

The northern half of our country which was a poor and backward colonial, semi-feudal society has radically changed the old aspects inherited from the past.

In only five to six years after the war, our people have laid a solid self-supporting foundation of the national economy.

In the northern half of our Republic, a powerful base of heavy industry with the machine industry as its core and the base of light industry have been created and we can find factories and mills all over the places.

On the basis of technical reconstruction which is being carried forward speedily, the productive forces of the country are developing with unprecedented rapidity.

During the postwar five years, our industrial production grew by more than 40 per cent on an average per year, and in the first half of this year, at the rapid rate of 75 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year.

This year our heroic people fulfilled with credit the

First Five-Year Plan of epoch-making significance in the development of our country two and a half years ahead of schedule in the gross industrial output value.

Today our industry is turning out in only twenty days what was produced in the whole year of 1946. With the fulfilment of the national economic plan for this year, our industrial production will surpass the prewar level by more than six times.

Under the powerful support of industry, the rural economy of our country too made tremendous progress.

Last year, our rural villages produced, despite severe natural calamities, 3.7 million tons of grain or roughly two times that in 1946 and this year, too, our countryside has harvested bumper crops.

The northern half of our Republic which was in short of food in the past has become able to meet its own demand for food.

On the basis of stupendous successes scored in the economic construction, the living of the people has been markedly enhanced within a short space of time.

The clothing, food and housing question for our people has already been solved in the main.

Last year, the real income of factory and office workers grew 1.6 times compared with 1949 and our peasants as a whole attained the living standard above that of middle peasants.

The life of our people who all work without exception, help each other and live in harmony is becoming more and more cheerful as the days go by.

The national culture and arts which had long been trampled upon are in full blossom.

Today, in our country whose inhabitants were mostly illiterates in the past, one fourth of the total population of

the northern half of our Republic are studying at schools at all levels.

In the northern half of our Republic, compulsory middle school education system has been enforced for the first time in Asia and compulsory technical education will be introduced in the future.

The victories gained by the Korean people in all the political, economic and cultural domains graphically testify to the superiority and the tremendous virility of the popular social system established in the northern half of our Republic.

The situations created in the northern and southern parts of our fatherland present a striking contrast between light and darkness, as pointed out even by the foreign press.

Today, the people in the northern half of our Republic ardently desire to relieve with the fruits of their lofty labour the South Korean people who are languishing under misfortunes, and consider it their due national obligation to do so.

However, the division of the country prevents our people from realizing even this ardent desire which proceeds from their noble compatriotic love.

Thus, although there are plenty of resources, electric power, coal, fertilizers, structural iron, timber and all other things needed for the people's life in the northern half of the fatherland, the people in South Korea, unable to use these, are forced to buy the materials from across the Korean straits and the Pacific. When the work places in the northern half of our Republic, which is bustling with magnificent economic construction, are ready to employ people anywhere and at any time, millions of unemployed

people are wandering about in the towns and the countryside of South Korea.

Today, when our brothers and sisters who have long been leading a hard life in Japan are going to come back to their dear fatherland, the compatriots in South Korea who have lost their way of living are compelled to set out on a wandering journey to far-off foreign lands.

This is really a great misfortune which we cannot but be grieved over. The contradictions and the national misfortunes resulting from the division of the country are constantly aggravating.

The continued division is multiplying the anxiety and fear of the people in both North and South Korea.

What then is the way out of all these misfortunes and sufferings? There is no alternative but to unify our fatherland by peaceful means.

However, the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee authorities, who are not concerned about the vital interests of the Korean people, are scheming to perpetuate the division of the country, instead of unifying the country, and are still pursuing war preparation policy in Korea, instead of peace.

Having driven South Korea into such disastrous predicament, the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee authorities are still busying themselves in reinforcing their huge armed forces, with no regard to peaceful construction, and are laying heavy burden of military expenses on the shoulders of the people.

The U.S. imperialist aggressive army occupying South Korea is aggravating tension in Korea and constantly threatening the Korean armistice by converting South Korea into an atomic and guided missile base and intensifying war clamour.

The continued occupation of South Korea by the American imperialist aggressive army and the prolonged division of Korea are not only the source of the national misfortunes and tribulation of the Korean people but the major source of menace to a lasting peace of the Far East and the rest of the world.

A great change has been brought about in the international situation of late.

The pursuance of the consistent and stubborn peace-loving foreign policy of the great Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist camp has brought about a marked advance in the struggle for easing international tension.

Particularly, the visit of Comrade Khrushchov, Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, to the United States some time ago has opened up a more inspiring prospect in further easing international tension and achieving the consolidation of peace.

Today the idea of peace and negotiation is prevailing in the international relations as an irresistible trend of the times.

The current of situation as clearly seen in the present-day international relations shows more clearly that the division of Korea, a legacy of the policy of "strength" which has already gone bankrupt, is really a hateful obstacle in the cause of peace.

Today, both from the viewpoint of the national interests of the Korean people and from that of a lasting world peace, the question of unifying divided Korea is an urgent and matured question which brooks no further delay and it is on the order of the day.

Comrades Deputies,

In the past period, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

have consistently made all efforts for the peaceful solution of the Korean question and the consolidation of peace in Korea.

The Korean question should be solved peacefully in conformity with the interests of the entire Korean people and the peace-loving people throughout the world.

Korea should and must be unified by the Korean people themselves on a democratic basis without any foreign interference.

However, the U.S. imperialists occupying South Korea did not intend from the outset to recognize the inherent national right of the Korean people who desire to found a unified, self-independent country and pursued the vicious aim of perpetuating the division of our fatherland and converting South Korea into their colony and an advance base for aggression against Asia.

Therefore, the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the fatherland, throughout its whole course, has been a consistent, resolute struggle against the policy of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee group for splitting Korea and their war policy.

As is widely known, the Moscow Three Foreign Ministers' Conference held in December 1945, set forth the realistic ways for the solution of the Korean question.

The decision on the Korean question adopted at the Moscow Conference provided for forming a democratic provisional government of Korea with the aim of restoring Korea to an independent country, enabling it to develop on democratic principles and creating conditions for liquidating at an early date the evil aftermath of the long-drawn Japanese rule.

The decision of the Moscow Conference on Korea corresponding to the basic interests of the Korean people was

not realized due to the refusal of the U.S. government to discharge its obligation imposed by the decision.

The United States not only frustrated intentionally the work of the U.S.S.R.-U.S. Joint Commission for the implementation of the decision of the Moscow Three Foreign Ministers Conference, but turned down even the proposal of the Soviet Government on simultaneously withdrawing the Soviet and U.S. troops from Korea and letting the Korean people solve the Korean question by themselves.

Far from cooperating in the establishment of a democratic provisional government of Korea, the United States adopted the line of dividing Korea.

To this end, the United States conducted separate elections in South Korea in 1948 under threat of the bayonet and intensified the preparations for igniting a war against North Korea.

All these facts are vivid proof that from the outset of liberation the U.S. imperialists had not the least interest in the fair and peaceful solution of the Korean issue.

For putting an end to the state of division and attaining the unification and independence of the country, however, the Korean people have continuously exerted sincere efforts for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The declaration of the inaugural meeting of the United Democratic Fatherland Front issued on June 28, 1949, and the appeal dated June 7, 1950 of the Central Committee of the United Democratic Fatherland Front repeatedly proposed to realize the unification of the fatherland through all-Korea free elections.

These proposals fully reflected the unanimous desire of the Korean people to break the impasse created at that time and peacefully unify the fatherland by all means.

As our proposals were not duly responded to, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to the South Korean authorities on June 19, 1950, to accomplish the unification of the fatherland by means of amalgamating into a single legislative body the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the South Korean "National Assembly."

However, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities who did not want the unification of Korea answered our fair proposals with the ignition of the fratricidal war.

The conclusion of the armistice in Korea opened a new prospect for the peaceful solution of the Korean question and made a contribution to the alleviation of tension in the Far East and Asia.

The struggle of the Korean people for peaceful unification was further stubbornly waged after the armistice.

We have too many instances to enumerate including the activities of the Government Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the 1954 Geneva Conference on the peaceful settlement of the Korean issue and the work of the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in 1956.

Taking advantage of all and every opportunity and possibility, the Korean people have put forward fair and reasonable proposals for peaceful unification.

The basic stand on the peaceful unification of the fatherland to which we invariably adhere is crystal clear.

The unification of Korea must be accomplished by the Korean people themselves by peaceful means on a democratic basis.

The unified government of Korea must be established through all-Korea free elections based on democratic principles without any interference from outside.

These are the immovable basic principles on which we stand in solving the Korean issue.

These principles of ours require that the Korean people solve by themselves the question related to their destiny without any interference from outside.

This is a fundamental prerequisite for the peaceful unification of the fatherland and the founding of a single democratic state.

The masters of Korea are the Korean people themselves.

It is the duty and right of the Korean people themselves to solve the Korean question.

The Korean people do not want the stationing of any foreign troops nor do they want their freedom and independence restricted by unequal, aggressive pacts and treaties or by the interference of foreign countries.

And the unification of Korea should and must be achieved in a peaceful way, not by means of war.

The three year long war brought immeasurably great misfortunes and sufferings to the Korean people.

The Korean people who know better than anyone else the scourge of war can never tolerate the recurrence of the sanguinary tragedy of fratricidal war.

Our basic principle envisages the holding of all-Korea general elections as an important stage in realizing the unification of Korea.

The general elections should be held in accordance with the free expression of will of the entire Korean people and, for this, all the political parties, social organizations and

individuals of North and South Korea should be ensured complete freedom in their political activities.

We hold that the unified government established through the all-Korea free elections on a democratic basis should be participated in by representatives of workers and peasants as well as broad popular masses, pursue a genuinely democratic policy and ensure the rights and interests of the people of all strata.

Our basic principle as regards the peaceful unification of the fatherland is a most fair and reasonable line which has been established in view of specific features of the situation created at present in North and South Korea and which completely accords with the fundamental interests of the Korean people and the duty for the all-round strengthening of peace.

At the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference for the peaceful solution of the Korean question in 1954, too, we made every possible effort for the peaceful unification of Korea on the basis of this principle.

However, for all our sincere efforts, the conference closed without solving the Korean question owing to the unjust stand and rude unilateral acts of the U.S. delegate and the delegates of the Syngman Rhee "government" and some other countries.

The United States and the Syngman Rhee authorities are pursuing an unjust line which is absolutely incompatible either with the national interests of the Korean people or the interests of peace in Korea.

Contrary to the just demand of the Korean people for holding all-Korea free elections, they insisted and are insisting on elections only in North Korea under the so-called U.N. supervision.

The essence of this hackneyed proposition has already

long been exposed thoroughly before the fair public opinion of the whole world.

The prestige of the U.N. has been extremely undermined owing to the grave criminal acts which the U.S. imperialists have perpetrated and are perpetrating against the Korean people, abusing the U.N. flag.

It is quite evident to every one that the United Nations cannot take an impartial stand in solving the Korean question inasmuch as the United Nations was, in reality, a belligerent in the Korean war.

With this sort of "elections" they attempt to wipe out the achievements attained by the Korean people in North Korea and extend the ruling system in South Korea under U.S. occupation to the northern half of the Republic. Yet, the American imperialist aggressors could not realize their aims even by force.

Under no circumstances will the Korean people give up their democratic achievements that they protected at tremendous sacrifice.

The allegation of the U.S. aggressors and the Syngman Rhee authorities is in the last analysis aimed at splitting the country into North and South, not peacefully unifying it and again provoking a new fratricidal war, not consolidating peace.

They do not want to see the Korean question solved by the Korean people themselves. The Syngman Rhee authorities are ignoring the Korean people's sovereignty, contending that the solution of the Korean question should be entrusted to foreigners.

Syngman Rhee's call for "march north" by no means is the national aspiration of the Korean people, but it only speaks for the colonial predatory policy of the U.S. aggressive forces.

It will only bring new greater sufferings and calamities to the people of Korea.

The Korean people will not tolerate the fresh schemes for war by the American imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

For the peaceful unification of Korea, consolidation of peace in Korea is required above anything else.

We deem it as our important task to convert the achievements of the armistice attained in Korea into a lasting peace.

Hence the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, despite the ceaseless provocative acts, has exerted every effort for lessening tension in Korea and observed strictly the armistice agreement.

In removing the distrust and tension between North and South Korea, reduction of the armed forces of both parts of Korea to the minimum is of great significance.

Reduction in the armed strength and putting back the military forces on a peace-time basis will heal the wounds of war, develop the economy, and improve the people's living by lightening the people's burden and cutting sharply the non-productive expenditures.

Therefore, through the declaration adopted at the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea met in March 1955 and on many other occasions, we proposed that the authorities of North and South Korea make a proclamation pledging that they will on no account resort to arms against each other.

Notwithstanding the continued expansion of the armed forces by the South Korean authorities, which rejected our proposals, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took initiative and reduced the numerical strength of the Korean People's Army by 80,000.

Such measures taken by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea showed once more our sincere efforts for promoting the peaceful unification of the fatherland and proved again that the propaganda on the so-called "menace from north" was groundless.

However, the U.S. imperialists who have been occupying South Korea and the Syngman Rhee authorities, ignoring the urgent demand of our people, have resorted to ceaseless provocative acts in order to further aggravate tension in Korea.

Flagrantly violating the armistice agreement, they have reinforced their military strength in South Korea by introducing large quantities of combat materials and keep committing hostile provocative acts of all kinds.

In 1953 the so-called "U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defence Pact" for legalizing the U.S. occupation of South Korea was concluded between the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee "government." It was followed by the signing of the "U.S.-R.O.K. Protocol on Military and Economic Aid."

After the conclusion of the armistice, the Syngman Rhee "government," clamouring loudly about armed invasion of the northern half of our country, greatly reinforced the military strength of the puppet army.

The policy of the U.S. imperialists for turning South Korea into an atomic war base aggravates tension in Korea and gravely menaces peace in the Far East and the world.

Therefore, it is not without reason that the honest-minded people of the world who treasure peace express great apprehensions over the fact that the preparations for horrible sanguinary war by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea are going on unchecked.

The U.S. imperialist aggressive army's occupation of South Korea represents the greatest obstacle in realizing the peaceful unification of Korea.

Therefore, the Korean people strongly demand the withdrawal of the aggressive U.S. troops from the areas of South Korea.

We have long been striving to have all foreign troops withdrawn from the area of Korea.

The presence of the aggressive imperialist army in the area of Korea will inevitably lead to the interference in the domestic affairs of the Korean people and the infringement on their sovereignty.

The stationing of the aggressive imperialist army in Korea is incompatible with the desire of the Korean people to conduct all-Korea free elections and unify their country on a democratic basis.

In the days following the war, the Government of the Republic called for the withdrawal from Korea of all foreign troops including the Chinese People's Volunteers.

The Government of the Republic in its statement of February 5, 1958, made proposals to the governments of the countries concerned for the withdrawal of all foreign troops including the Chinese People's Volunteers from Korea.

In accordance with this proposal, the Chinese People's Volunteers completely withdrew from the territory of Korea.

The withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers was a concrete manifestation of the consistent, sincere efforts of the Korean and Chinese peoples to solve the Korean question by peaceful means.

This initiative taken by the Korean-Chinese side opened up a new phase in converting the armistice into a dur-

able peace and facilitating the peaceful unification of Korea, and made a tremendous contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of peace in the Far East and Asia.

One year has already passed since the Chinese People's Volunteers completely pulled out of Korea. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialist aggressive army has not yet left South Korea.

There is no ground whatsoever for the U.S. imperialist aggressive army to remain in Korea.

The stationing of the U.S. imperialist aggressive army in South Korea, which has brought immeasurable pain and calamities to the Korean people, constitutes a decisive obstacle in restoring peace in Korea and peacefully unifying Korea.

The Korean people will keep up their staunch struggle for the early withdrawal of the aggressive U.S. imperialist army from their land.

For the promotion of the peaceful unification of the country, the present artificial barrier between North and South Korea must be torn down and mutual contacts and negotiations between the people of North and South Korea be realized.

We have proposed more than once that contacts and negotiations be opened so that the representatives of North and South Korea can sit around one table and discuss open-heartedly the questions which concerns with the destiny of our nation and the question of peaceful unification of the country.

These proposals of ours are both feasible and reasonable under the present condition.

We suggested as a practical way of solving this question that a permanent commission be formed with the re-

representatives of the parliaments or the governments of North and South Korea or with the representatives of political parties and social organizations in the North and South.

If both sides are truly sincere in satisfying the desire of the Korean people, this will be not only feasible but also certainly make positive achievements in solving the question of peacefully unifying the country.

We have availed ourselves of all the opportunities and made efforts in every possible way to realize contacts and negotiations.

The 8th session of the Supreme People's Assembly in 1954 proposed that, with a view to discussing the question of peaceful unification of the country, a joint conference of the representatives of political parties, social organizations and people of all strata in North and South Korea or a joint session of the parliaments of the North and South be convened in Pyongyang or Seoul.

Recently, to be exact, on May 22 the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again expressed in a statement its readiness to sit at one place at any time for negotiation with the representatives of the South Korean authorities in order to remove the misfortune of the national split.

To make the North-South contacts and negotiations feasible, the Government of the Republic has stated time and again that it would ensure the personal safety of those coming to the North from the South and guarantee them complete freedom in the North.

But the Syngman Rhee "government" fears most the free elections based upon the will of the people and negotiations between the North and South.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities

have been turning a deaf ear to all of our appeals for contacts and negotiations and are categorically opposed to them.

Under the conditions in which political negotiation between the North and South was not realized due to the objection of the U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities, we have repeatedly put forward proposals for starting mutual contacts by establishing at first the economic and cultural relations between the North and South.

In a number of letters, statements and appeals sent to the South Korean authorities, the Government of the Republic has proposed time and again to designate certain places respectively and interchange needed goods with a view to opening trade and starting to exchange goods between North and South Korea.

The Government of our Republic has furthermore put forward proposals on several occasions to realize communications and postal exchanges and free travel of the inhabitants between the North and South.

These proposals of ours proceeded from the sincere desire for removing the abnormal state of affairs in which our people, separated in the North and South for nearly 15 years, cannot exchange even a letter, to say nothing of seeing each other.

The establishment of such relations will make positive contributions to the South Korean economy and people's living which have been severely ruined by the colonial predatory policy pursued by the U.S. imperialists. Our proposals for contacts between the North and South are not only feasible, but also of great political significance.

It is quite obvious that these proposals will not only promote the relaxation of tension as well as contacts between the North and South, but will create favourable pre-

conditions for the restoration of the national unification.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities, however, are opposing for no reason all our most reasonable and realistic proposals and are blocking all the ways of contacts with the northern part.

They are even barring the helping hand of compatriotic love of the Government of our Republic from reaching the unemployed, foodless peasants, typhoon and flood victims and orphans in South Korea who have lost the means of living and are suffering from hunger.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have rejected all of the sincere proposals made by our Government such as to send electricity from the North to the enterprises engaged in peaceful production and the people in South Korea and to allow the South Korean fishermen to fish in the territorial waters of the North.

Not only that. The South Korean authorities are even refusing to accept the relief goods offered by the people in the North to the calamity-stricken people in South Korea who are in urgent need of relief.

Such is the very attitude of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities towards the sincere measures taken by us for the acceleration of the peaceful unification of the country.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors, with a view to perpetuating the split of our country, are hindering every effort of the Korean people for the peaceful unification from being realized. They are even afraid of the Korean people meeting together.

The continued national split is increasing the unrest and anxiety of the Korean people.

The protracted division of Korea fraught with the

danger of war constitutes a constant threat to peace and security of the world.

Comrades Deputies,

This is the present state of affairs in our country. For the national interests of the Korean people as well as for the interests of the peace-loving peoples of the whole world, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question constitutes a most pressing issue, the solution of which cannot be delayed any longer.

In such grave situation affecting the destiny of the fatherland for generations to come, no conscientious Korean can sit idle, indifferent to the state of affairs.

Under no circumstances can we leave our divided country to our posterity.

For nearly 15 years since liberation, our country has remained territorially divided and our nation split. It is the noble duty of all conscientious Korean people to rise up in the struggle for removing the abnormal state of affairs and achieving the cause of the unification of the country.

The grave difficulties lying in the way of unifying the country at present must by all means be removed.

We present the questions as regards the present state of affairs in our country and unification before fair world public opinion for consideration.

Can we tolerate any longer the split of Korea as it is today?

That will bring about further dangerous consequences not only to the interests of the Korean people but also to peace in the Far East and the world.

Then by what means should the unification of Korea be realized?

There is no other way than through peaceful means.

The only way out is for the Korean people to unify the country peacefully by themselves. It will be only fair to entrust the destiny of Korea to its masters, the Korean people.

It is too ridiculous, absurd and reckless for the South Korean authorities to continuously clamour for "march north" at a time when the voices for peace are being heard ever louder throughout the world and the idea of negotiation and talks is prevailing.

The unification of Korea should be realized without fail through all-Korea free elections on a democratic basis without any foreign interference.

Authorized by the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I propose today that the current Supreme People's Assembly make the following appeal to the South Korean authorities, parliaments of all countries of the world and to the world public:

The question of the Korean unification should be presented and examined as one of the important international issues that brook no further delay at present.

The armistice in Korea should be turned into a lasting peace for expediting the realization of the unification of North and South Korea.

The flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement by the United States and the Syngman Rhee authorities and the dangerous war clamour they are making while converting South Korea into an atomic base must be immediately brought to an end.

The foremost prerequisite for the peaceful solution of the Korean question is the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from South Korea.

We demand that, taking the situation created in Korea

into serious consideration, the governments of the United States and the other countries which dispatched their armies to South Korea take appropriate steps for withdrawing their armies without delay.

Today the U.S. army and armies of the other countries which took part in the Korean war have no ground or reason whatever to remain in South Korea.

Why should the armies of the United States and other states which sent their troops to the Korean war still remain there if they have no intention to interfere in our internal affairs and to invade our country?

I consider that the time has come when we can calmly judge what the stationing of the U.S. army in South Korea for nearly 15 years and the stay of the so-called "U.N. Army" there have brought and what result they will bring in the future.

Today peace, national sovereignty and independence are a common lofty idea of mankind.

Some time ago, U.S. President Eisenhower expressed his sympathy with this idea by saying that the Americans "covet no territory, no additional power, nor do they seek to interfere in the internal affairs of any other nation."

But the presence of the U.S. army in South Korea is by no means compatible with this lofty idea.

We expect that all the people the world over who desire the national unification of the Korean people and the consolidation of peace in Korea and Asia will not spare active support and encouragement for realizing the withdrawal of the U.S. army from Korea.

At the same time, we propose to reduce the numerical strength of the North and South Korean armies, to begin with, to less than one hundred thousand each in the shortest possible period of time.

And we propose to the South Korean authorities that the North and South Korean authorities solemnly declare that they will not resort to arms against each other.

Such step is of realistic significance, the more so in the light of the world trend of the present juncture when, thanks to the initiative of the Soviet Union, the tension is considerably being relaxed in the international relations and the question of universal and complete disarmament is on the order of the day.

We propose to hold all-Korea free elections under the condition in which the expression of free will of the North and South Korean people is completely ensured within a definite period after the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea.

The time has come when the representatives of North and South Korea should sit at one place to discuss questions concerning the peaceful unification of the country including the question of holding all-Korea free elections and sincerely negotiate on the great cause of the country and nation.

We hold that a permanent commission comprising the representatives of the parliaments, governments or various political parties and social organizations of North and South Korea should be formed.

We are ready to negotiate at any time with anyone, irrespective of political views, knowledge and religious beliefs, so long as he genuinely desires the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

We will go forward hand in hand with any personage, not holding him against his past, if he comes out for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The establishment of economic and cultural ties be-

tween North and South Korea is the vital demand of the North and South Korean people.

We demand free mutual visits and postal exchange between the North and South Korean people and the realization of mutual interchange in the fields of economy, culture, science, arts, physical culture and so forth.

With a view to realizing this, we propose to the South Korean authorities and the personages of economic circles to organize, to begin with, the permanent commission composed of economic representatives of North and South Korea for the economic development and exchange between North and South Korea.

This commission will discuss, independently of political question, questions on establishing connection in and regulating the economic development of North and South Korea and realizing economic exchange between North and South Korea.

These proposals made by us represent the most realistic and only programme for expediting the peaceful unification of the fatherland under the present situation and reflect the unanimous desire of the entire Korean people who are eagerly aspiring after the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

The South Korean authorities should not shut their eyes to these proposals as heretofore, without showing any sincerity, but should manifest a positive attitude by seriously approaching them and carefully studying and deliberating them.

We are convinced that our just programme for the peaceful unification of the fatherland and consistent efforts for its realization will enjoy further active support and encouragement of the peace-loving people the world over.

In connection with the above-mentioned proposals, I

propose to adopt, in the name of the current Supreme People's Assembly, a letter addressed to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Korea and the South Korean people and another to the parliaments of all countries of the world.

Comrades Deputies,

The long history of our fatherland is resplendent with the valorous struggles our forefathers waged in firm unity for upholding the honour of the fatherland and nation whenever the nation was confronted with trials.

The rise and fall of the fatherland and the ups and downs of the nation today depend upon the efforts of all the patriotic personages of North and South Korea.

The unity and solidarity of all national forces are of decisive importance in the struggle for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

If all the patriotic forces of North and South Korea actively fight in unison, no obstacle can obstruct the unification of our fatherland.

The unity and solidarity of the nation will ensure our victory while the division of national forces bring defeat and disaster.

Only through unity and solidarity can we win the unification and independence of the fatherland, and by accomplishing the unification and independence of the fatherland we will be able to open more brilliant, new era in the history of our country.

Let us make a vigorous march for the unity and solidarity of all the patriotic forces of North and South Korea and toward the final victory of the unification of the fatherland!

LETTER OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO THE SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE

Members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Korea!

Statesmen and public figures of South Korea!

Dear fellow countrymen, brothers and sisters in South Korea!

14 years have already elapsed since our compatriots who had lived as a single nation through a long history were separated in the North and South.

Misfortunes arising from the division of the country and the split of the nation have now reached the extreme.

Realities demand measures for national salvation to be taken without a moment's delay.

What way should we take for delivering ourselves from the perilous national misfortune?

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which aspires after the unification, freedom and prosperity of the nation wishes to convey to you once again today our burning desire through this letter. For what reason should our nation which is proud of its history of thousands of years and of the brilliant

cultural traditions undergo the misfortune of the national split, unable to form a unified, independent state?

Indeed, now is the time for all our compatriots to unite themselves in a body and come out to the struggle for national salvation by devoting all their power, energy and wisdom solely for the destiny of the country and the future of the nation.

The pressing situation being created in South Korea today does not allow any Korean, who is concerned about the country's future and nation's destiny, to keep silence any longer.

We are all grieved over the present plight of the South Korean brothers, which you yourselves witness every day, every hour.

In today's South Korea, an increasing number of factories and mills is suspending operation as the days go by.

No sign of independence can be found in the national economy and the market is flooded with foreign commodities only.

Millions of the young and middle-aged who are jobless although they have fine ability and talent are swarming the streets in search of the means of subsistence.

In all parts of South Korea, which was once known as a granary, countless peasants are shivering in cold and hunger with no prospect of finding the way of living. On top of this, over one million people afflicted with the recent typhoon are left out in the street without any shelter, with the severe winter at hand.

Hundreds upon thousands of orphans, forsaken by the society, are begging from house to house.

Beautiful manner and customs inherited from our ancestors are being defiled and more and more moral de-

pravity and crimes are evidenced.

The national culture and arts are withering and even our proud mother tongue is gradually losing its colour. Civil rights are trampled underfoot and all those who want to speak the truth are persecuted, arrested and thrown into jail. The Koreans who are the masters of this land are subjected to indescribable national humiliation and maltreatment by the U.S. aggressive army.

Never had there been such national misfortunes and difficulties of living in the long history of our country.

How could we, who love our fatherland and compatriots so deeply, help lamenting over such a state of affairs?

What has brought such intolerable national disaster?

Had the U.S. imperialists not artificially divided our country and had they withdrawn their armed forces from South Korea, we would long ago have been living harmoniously in a united family in peace and there would have been no such misfortunes and sufferings as our South Korean brothers are undergoing today.

In disregard of the urgent desire of the entire Korean people, the U.S. imperialists have continued to occupy South Korea, splitting our fatherland artificially, and have reduced it to a colony, a military base and a market for their surplus commodities.

Such is the consequences of the U.S. imperialists' occupation and their colonial rule. Although our country is divided into two parts, we have turned the northern half into an industrial-agricultural state with a solid foundation of self-supporting national economy.

Backwardness and ignorance have already become forever a thing of the past, and we are now producing all

necessary up-to-date machines and equipment on our own, taking pride in our advanced technique.

Our poverty-stricken countryside in the past has been turned into a bountiful land which knows no crop failure, into a land of happiness.

In our northern half, a firm foundation has been laid for building a unified, independent state.

If the North and South Korean people had jointly built the national economy and developed our national culture on the unified soil of the fatherland, we could have created a happy life more speedily, more easily and more splendidly.

However, the tragedy of the split is still continuing.

How can we look on with folded arms at such intolerable national calamities!

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been consistently exerting sincere efforts for removing the tragedy of national split and achieving the peaceful unification of the country.

But the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee replied to our repeated proposals to unify the country through peaceful means with the provocation of a war.

Following the cease-fire, too, with a view to turning the armistice into a lasting peace and relaxing tension, we proposed that all the foreign troops be withdrawn and that the armed forces of North and South Korea be reduced to the minimum.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has already reduced unilaterally its military strength by 80,000 and the Chinese People's Volunteers had completed their withdrawal from the northern part already one year ago on their own initiative.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to hold all-Korea free elections after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and to realize negotiation, economic and cultural exchange, free movement of the inhabitants and postal exchange between North and South Korea.

But these reasonable and just proposals still remain unrealized.

Never for a moment did we forget the position our South Korean compatriots are in. Therefore, we offered on several occasions to send a huge amount of goods to our South Korean compatriots who have been driven into dire predicament.

But this noble and compatriotic measure has not been realized either.

Why should even the mutual support and assistance between compatriots, brothers and sisters be prevented?

Would any sober-minded person regard the present state of affairs as normal?

The artificial split of Korea into north and south only serves the interests of the U.S. imperialist aggressors who are attempting to turn South Korea into their permanent colony and military base. The U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee are running wild in provoking a new war, introducing such mass destruction weapons as atomic weapons and guided missiles into the territory of our fatherland.

Syngman Rhee is clamouring for "march north."

War or peace? Division or unification? Which of the two is the road for the happiness of our nation and the prosperity of the generations to come?

We should not forget the bitter experiences of the past war!

The Korean question can never be solved by means of war. The continued national split is only driving the compatriots in South Korea into further miserable plight.

The history of the past 14 years eloquently proves the correctness of the consistent policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on unifying the country peacefully by the Korean people themselves on a democratic basis following the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

To hold on to the means of war is a delusion and anachronism.

Today we are living in an era when the idea of peace and negotiation is triumphing.

There is no other way out for us than to compel the U.S. army to withdraw immediately and achieve the unification of the fatherland by our people themselves through peaceful negotiation.

Members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Korea!

Statesmen and public figures of South Korea!

Dear fellow countrymen, brothers and sisters of South Korea!

Everyone of you who are concerned about the destiny of the fatherland and the future of the nation, unite under the banner of the nation-wide struggle for compelling the U.S. army to withdraw and realizing the peaceful unification of the country!

Aren't we a homogeneous nation which has lived in this land from time immemorial?

What is there to make you hesitate before the supreme call of the history and truth?

This is no time for us to argue about the difference of political views, religious beliefs and property status, nor is this the time for us to be engaged in the debate of the merits and demerits of the past.

We will welcome all those who exert themselves for the withdrawal of the U.S. army and the peaceful unification of the country and we will go hand in hand with them, regardless of their political views, party affiliations and past activities.

Let us compel the U.S. army to withdraw by pooling the forces of all patriotic political parties and social organizations, and attain the peaceful unification of the country by means of conducting free general elections throughout North and South Korea in accordance with the will of the Korean people themselves without any interference from outside.

For the promotion of the attainment of this cause, let us, first of all, form a permanent commission with the representatives of the parliaments, governments or political parties and social organizations of North and South Korea, and let us discuss there the question of the unification of the country and practical matters concerning the elections!

For successfully conducting the elections it is necessary to guarantee the political parties, social organizations and the personages of all strata of North and South Korea complete freedom of political activities throughout Korea.

Let us strive to realize between North and South Korea communications and exchange of tourist groups and free movement of the population!

Why cannot we move about freely at our own will on the soil of our own country?

Let us gather together at one place in whatever form,

whether between the political parties and social organizations or between individual personages of the North and South, or between the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the House of Representatives of the Republic of Korea!

Let us open our hearts to each other!

In order to attain the cause of peaceful unification, we must dispel misunderstanding, remove distrust and antagonism between us and bring the different opinions together.

To relax tension and lighten the people's heavy burden of military expenses, let us above all reduce the strength of the armed forces of North and South Korea to less than 100,000 men respectively!

Mutual exchange between North and South Korea in the fields of economy, culture, science, arts, physical culture and so forth should be realized at the earliest date.

The economic interchange between the North and South constitutes an important condition for rehabilitating the South Korean economy and improving the living of the South Korean people.

Let us discuss, first of all, concrete questions for establishing connection in and regulating the economic development of North and South Korea and realizing economic exchange by setting up the permanent commission for the economic development and exchange between the North and South composed of economic representatives of North and South Korea!

We want to share with the South Korean people all the gains we made in the economic and cultural fields.

We can supply electricity, coal, structural iron, cement, up-to-date machines and equipment and materials

for the rehabilitation of the South Korean national economy and provide the dilapidated South Korean countryside with chemical fertilizers and materials and equipment needed for irrigation projects. Why cannot the abundant materials and equipment produced in the land of the same country be used for tiding over the South Korean economic bankruptcy and rescuing the South Korean people who are on the verge of starvation?

Let us, first of all, solve this question, independently of political questions!

The peaceful unification of our country will make a tremendous contribution also to the cause of world peace.

The conscience of the world fully supports the just aspiration of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of the country.

People of all walks of life and every strata in South Korea, firmly unite as one man and form a broad anti-American, country-saving united front!

The withdrawal of the U.S. troops and the peaceful unification of the country are the sole way of relieving the South Korean people from their present dire predicament.

Let us exert our utmost efforts for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and the peaceful unification of the country.

Addressing this letter, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea earnestly hopes that the House of Representatives of the Republic of Korea and the broad public of South Korea will come out in support of our proposal.

We are confident that the entire patriotic people of all strata of South Korea—workers, peasants, intellectuals, youth, students, traders, enterprisers and religious men—

who are deeply concerned about the future of our fatherland and the destiny of our nation, will rise up in a body in the struggle for realizing our noble proposal.

**Supreme People's Assembly
of the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea**

*October 27, 1959
Pyongyang*

LETTER OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Members of parliaments of all countries of the world!

Proceeding from the consistent desire to realize as early as possible the unification of Korea which is suffering from long-drawn national split and considering that the question of removing the danger of war and preserving and consolidating peace in Korea is one of the urgent questions that are inseparable from the cause of world peace, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addresses this letter to the parliaments of all countries of the world.

Korea has been undergoing the tragedy of national split already for more than 14 years.

And over six years have elapsed counting from the time of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement which opened a new possibility for the peaceful solution of the Korean question, but the unification has not yet been realized.

The protraction of the division is continuously bringing immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings to the state and social life of our people in general and even to the domestic life of each individual.

Owing to the protraction of the division, the tension in Korea which menaces world peace, particularly peace in

Asia, has not yet been removed and the source of war pregnant with the seed of grave calamities is growing with every passing day.

In the first place, there was no ground whatsoever for our nation to be split into the North and South.

Down through the history of thousands of years, our people lived in harmony in this peninsula as brothers of one family of a single nation in whose veins runs the blood of the same ancestors.

The artificial partition of this single nation which has such a long-standing tradition makes it impossible to utilize the abundant natural resources and economic potentialities of the North and South as a unit and achieve unified efflorescence and development of the national culture.

In the course of the 14 years since the division of the country, South Korea has been reduced to a market for foreign surplus commodities, having completely lost its self-supporting character. The national industry has gone into general bankruptcy with the result that the gross industrial output value is about one half compared with the pre-liberation days; the rural areas have been completely ruined and dilapidated and thus South Korea, which used to be a grain exporting area, has been converted into an area of chronic famine. Extreme political confusion, famine and poverty, degradation and moral depravity are prevalent throughout South Korea and millions of unemployed and child beggars are wandering about the streets.

Even under the difficult circumstances of the split of the country, the northern half, where the power is in the hands of the Korean people themselves, has been converted in a short space of time from a backward colonial agricultural country into an industrial-agricultural country with a firm, self-supporting foundation of the national economy.

Today in the northern half, which is marching along the road of an independent country, the life of the people has entered a period of brilliant efflorescence hitherto unknown in the history of our country.

However, owing to the division of the country, the people in the northern half cannot share the fruits of happiness achieved by their creative labour with the suffering brothers and sisters in the southern half.

The division of the country makes it impossible for dear parents, wives and children, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, who cannot hear from each other, separated in the North and South, even to write to each other, let alone seeing each other.

We consider that all men who value justice and truth will share the view that the abnormal situation created in Korea due to the territorial division should not continue any longer.

Today the armistice in Korea is also placed in a state of constant tension and instability, contrary to the expectation of the whole world at the time when the firing ceased in Korea.

A number of provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement, which was materialized at the cost of the blood of the Korean people and as a result of the energetic efforts of the peace-loving forces throughout the world, have been unilaterally abrogated by the U.S. side.

The Syngman Rhee's army has been expanded from 16 divisions at the time of the armistice to 31 divisions at present. The personnel of the Neutral Nations Inspection Teams, whose mission is to supervise and ensure the implementation of the Korean Armistice Agreement, have long been expelled from South Korea.

Even atomic weapons and guided missiles, weapons of

mass destruction, have been shipped into South Korea from the United States.

Syngman Rhee is still clamouring for "march north" and the U.S. and Syngman Rhee's armies are frequently conducting atomic war manoeuvres in the vicinity of the military demarcation line and the demilitarized zone, and perpetrating the provocative acts of intruding upon the territory of North Korea.

No one will deny, we think, the stern fact that the growing tension in Korea is gravely menacing peace in the Far East and the world. Without removing these dark clouds, the whole world will be unable to rest in peace.

For peace in Korea, the Far East and the world, the Korean question should be solved at the earliest date and the source of another war in Korea eliminated.

Proceeding from the sense of duty to the destiny of the nation and guided by the interests of world peace, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea once again solemnly declares before the world that the termination of the artificial split of Korea and the removal of the source of new war can be realized only through peaceful means.

As is well known, even prior to the Korean war, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had consistently put forward reasonable and fair proposals for the peaceful unification of the country.

However, the United States and the Syngman Rhee authorities answered to this peaceful initiative of ours with the provocation of a war.

The two opposite lines of peace and war in the solution of the Korean issue still persist today, long after the armistice.

Following the signing of the Armistice Agreement, we

proposed that the armed forces of North and South Korea be reduced to the minimum and the North and South Korean authorities declare not to resort to arms, with a view to converting the armistice into a lasting peace and creating favourable conditions for the peaceful solution of the Korean question. And we set a practicable example by unilaterally reducing the numerical strength of the armed forces by 80,000.

We put forward proposals on holding all-Korea free elections for peacefully accomplishing the unification of the country on a democratic basis after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea.

In response to our proposal, the Chinese People's Volunteers had completely withdrawn from Korea on their own initiative by the end of October, 1958.

We proposed that broad economic and cultural intercourse, postal exchange and the free travel of peaceable inhabitants be realized between North and South Korea for facilitating the implementation of our unification programme and breaking the barrier of distrust existing between North and South Korea and that negotiations be held between North and South Korea for discussing all these questions.

None of these fair and reasonable proposals for peaceful unification has been realized due to the continued and stubborn refusal of the United States and the Syngman Rhee authorities.

Even today, more than a year since the complete withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers from Korea, the U.S. army still remains in South Korea.

The cause of the prolonged division of Korea and the war danger which is incessantly created in Korea lies solely in the stationing of the U.S. army in South Korea.

It is clear that for the solution of the Korean question by genuinely peaceful means and not from the "positions of strength," the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea should be made the starting point.

The solution of the Korean question cannot be placed on the parallel lines of peace and war which never meet.

The experience of the past Korean war shows that the means of war cannot serve as the means of solving the Korean issue or open a way out for anybody.

No one can oppose the withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea, unless he harbours the intention to oppress the Korean people by force or impose something upon the Korean people.

Today, there is no ground whatsoever for the U.S. army to remain in South Korea any longer.

To unify our own country peacefully—this is our consistent aspiration.

We have consistently held and still hold that no outside force should interfere in the solution of our own question.

We have full ability and all the conditions for settling our own problem by ourselves.

We want to realize the unification of the country through free, general elections conducted throughout the North and South on a democratic basis in accordance with the general will of the thirty million Korean people after the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from South Korea.

However, the United Nations, which became a belligerent party in the Korean war having its noble appellation abused by the United States, has long forfeited even the right to speak about "supervision" in the elections.

The time has come for the United Nations to direct its attention to this very point. The United Nations must restore its prestige as an organ of peace and examine the

question of withdrawing the U.S. troops and all the other foreign troops from South Korea.

The Americans must discard the absurd allegation that the 38th parallel in Korea, which is thousands of miles away from the territory of the United States, is the U.S. "defence line."

Members of parliament of all countries of the world!
Peace-loving people of all nations!

The solution of the Korean question is an urgent demand of the present situation.

It is the prerequisite to the peaceful settlement of the Korean issue under the present circumstances to withdraw the U.S. army and all the other foreign troops from South Korea.

When the foreign troops pull out of South Korea, all the knots in the solving of the Korean question will be unraveled. We are firmly convinced that our peace-loving national aspiration for realizing the peaceful unification of Korea without any foreign intervention will enlist the support of all men in the world who value peace.

We expect that the parliaments of all countries of the world will duly support our programme for peaceful unification and will come out in demand of the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea, voicing the will of the people of their countries, so that the scourge of the past Korean war which wrapped the whole world with the fear of a new world war will not be repeated in this land.

We hope that the parliaments of those countries which have troops in South Korea will examine the question of recalling their troops and will demand their governments to immediately withdraw their troops from South Korea.

Today in the overall international life the ice of the "cold war" is breaking and a new powerful current calling

for the settlement of questions in dispute by means of peaceful negotiation and not by means of arms and pressure is flowing.

The withdrawal of the U.S. army from South Korea will accord with this international current and with the idea of general and complete disarmament which is maturing now.

The source of tension and clash must be eliminated everywhere in the world.

Today it is a lofty act for the vital interest of people of all nations to support our just initiative for the consolidation of peace in Korea and the peaceful solution of the Korean question.

Peace is the common cause of all people of the world!
Korea to the Koreans!

All foreign troops, pull out of South Korea!

We appeal to all the parliaments and political figures of all countries of the world including the United States and to the entire peace-loving people to express active support to this voice of our national aspiration for the sake of peace and the security of the peoples.

**Supreme People's Assembly of
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

*October 27, 1959
Pyongyang*

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