

To: Senior Member, United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission

From: Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission

With reference to your letter of 15 April, 1954, directed to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, the Swedish and Swiss members of the Commission submit the following comments.

The armistice agreement signed on 27 July 1953 by the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, on the one hand, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, on the other hand, provides for the establishment of a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

The nations, neutral in the sense of the armistice agreement, who were called upon to appoint members to the Commission, were not consulted on the provisions of the armistice agreement that were to rule its activities. The relevant provisions of the armistice agreement had therefore to be accepted as they read, with the Military Armistice Commission being the sole authoritative body in respect to their interpretation. It became apparent from the start that many provisions of the armistice agreement were liable to be interpreted in different ways and also that there were too many loopholes left to enable the application of thorough control of the rotation of military personnel and of the replacement of combat material. Under the circumstances it became evident that the abidance by the provisions of the armistice agreement came to depend more on the good will and on the good faith of the signatories than on the efficiency of the control activities of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

In addition, the operations of this Commission were hampered by the fact that in many instances the vote of its four members was found to be equally divided, resulting in a deadlock. The cases referred to in your letter met this fate. That is why no action could be taken on your requests that neutral nations inspection teams be sent to the territory under the military control of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese Peoples Volunteers in order to investigate alleged violations of the armistice agreement. The Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission maintained that the Commission was under a clear obligation to carry out these investigations, as required both by the letter and even more by the spirit of the armistice agreement and, therefore, they decline any responsibility for the state of affairs resulting from the noncooperation of their Czechoslovak and Polish colleagues who held different views. The Swedish and Swiss members also feel concern with regard to the negative attitude taken by the Korean People's Army and Chinese Peoples Volunteers' side with regard to some of the requests submitted by your side. It is the considered opinion of the Swedish and Swiss members that, lest some of the provisions of the armistice agreement are to become completely inoperative, the whole problem of supervision and especially of investigation concerning alleged violations of the armistice agreement should be considered by the Military Armistice Commission for further clarification. Under the present circumstances the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission will not be in a position to operate

as was probably intended by the signatories of the armistice agreement. The Swedish and Swiss members are, furthermore, of the opinion that the control activities of the fixed neutral nations inspection teams in the territory under the military control of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese Peoples Volunteers are not being carried out satisfactorily and in full accord with the spirit of the armistice agreement, owing to the restrictive practices imposed on the activities of the teams by their Czechoslovak and Polish members.

(Signed) Paul Nohn, (Typed) Paul Nohn, Major General Swedish Member of NNSC; (Signed) Gross, (Typed) Ernest Gross, Brigadier General Swiss Member of NNSC, Korea.