



EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND

WASHINGTON 8 D.C., le 7 août 1957.
2900 Cathedral Avenue N.W.
Telephone HO 2-1811/7

Ref.: L.527 - On/w.

A la Division des Affaires
Politiques
du Département Politique Fédéral,
B e r n e .

Monsieur le Ministre,

M. David Nes, qui s'occupe des affaires coréennes au Département d'Etat, a convoqué M. Châtelain le 6 août, à 17 heures, et lui a remis le document dont vous voudrez bien trouver un exemplaire ci-joint.

Il s'agit du rapport accompagnant le texte de la déclaration faite au MAC le 21 juin dernier par le "United Nations Command Representative", qui sera adressé dans deux ou trois jours au Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies par le Gouvernement américain.

M. Nes précisa que ce rapport, qu'il avait également remis une heure auparavant à un diplomate de l'Ambassade de Suède, avait déjà été communiqué aux missions diplomatiques du groupe des 16 pays, mais qu'il avait un caractère confidentiel tant qu'il ne serait pas publié par les services de M. Hammarskjöld. Il ajouta que le Département d'Etat avait eu tout d'abord l'intention d'adjoindre un "livre blanc" à ce rapport. Toutefois, ce plan fut abandonné de crainte que certaines sources de renseignements étant ainsi dévoilées, la sécurité d'agents informateurs en Corée du Nord ait à en souffrir.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de Suisse a.i.:

1 annexe.

cc: Observateur Suisse auprès de l'ONU, New York;
M.R. Aubaret, Consul Général, Chef de la Délégation suisse, Panmunjom.



UNIFIED COMMAND REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
STATEMENT IN THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION ON JUNE 21, 1957

The Government of the United States, in its capacity as the Unified Command, presents herewith a special report concerning certain action recently taken by the United Nations Command in order to maintain a relative military balance in Korea and thus to preserve the stability of the armistice.

Despite sincere efforts by the nations represented in the United Nations Command, the Communist side has made it impossible to achieve the political settlement contemplated in Article IV of the Armistice Agreement. Although after long delay there was convened at Geneva in 1954 a political conference on Korea, the Communist delegations throughout that conference insisted that the United Nations were the real aggressors in Korea and refused to recognize the authority of the United Nations to supervise general elections in Korea. The report of the fifteen United Nations members participating in the conference was approved by the General Assembly December 13, 1954. In the absence of any indication that the Communist side will be willing in the foreseeable future to agree to a political settlement in Korea on a basis in conformity with the long-standing United Nations objectives, the Armistice Agreement must continue to provide the basis for maintenance of peace in Korea.

The frustration of United Nations efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement in Korea and the consequent prolongation of the armistice have, however, created for the United Nations Command a grave problem in maintaining its military strength relative to that of the Communist Command.

Certain provisions of the Armistice Agreement, particularly subparagraph 13(d), were designed to maintain the relative military balance existing on July 27, 1953, until a political settlement was achieved. Under this paragraph both sides were to "Cease the introduction into Korea of reinforcing combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition; provided, however, that combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition which are destroyed, damaged, worn out, or used up during the period of the armistice may be replaced on the basis of piece-for-piece of the same effectiveness and the same type."

Within twenty-four hours of the signature of the Armistice Agreement, the Communist side began to introduce aircraft into north Korea in complete disregard of these provisions. During the past four years the Communist side has, in fact, violated that agreement in the following particulars:

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(1) It has introduced reinforcing combat equipment of the types referred to in subparagraph 13(d) in contravention of the provisions allowing only piece-for-piece replacement of equipment worn out and destroyed after the date of the armistice.

(2) It has also introduced combat equipment and weapons of new and improved types and effectiveness from any it had in Korea at the time of the armistice.

(3) It has failed to report introductions of such equipment.

(4) It has introduced such equipment at ports of entry other than those specified in the Armistice Agreement.

Through the introduction of weapons of improved and different types and in increased quantities the Communist side increased its military materiel effectiveness and over-all strength to a point where the relative military balance between the two sides, which was provided for by the armistice and upon which the maintenance of peace depends, was upset. This situation was further aggravated by the fact that in contrast to this performance, the United Nations Command refrained from introducing the improved types of weapons available to it and confined its replacement to a piece-for-piece basis of types in Korea on July 27, 1953, in strict accordance with the provisions of subparagraph 13(d).

In increasing its strength, the Communist side failed to report its introduction of materiel to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission as it is required to do under subparagraph 13(d) of the Armistice Agreement, which provides in part: "In order to justify the requirements for combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and ammunition to be introduced into Korea for replacement purposes, reports concerning every incoming shipment of these items shall be made to the Military Armistice Commission and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission; such reports shall include statements regarding the disposition of the items being replaced." Since the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission was prevented by Communist obstruction from discharging effectively its responsibilities, there was no assurance that the disparity between the opposing forces would not continue and, indeed, increase. Efforts by the United Nations Command to rectify this situation by action in the Military Armistice Commission and through the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission have, as previously reported, been to no avail.

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Since the Communist side in Korea has failed to observe the "piece-for piece" limitation as well as the provisions for reporting to and inspection by the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and the introduction of replacement items only through the specified ports of entry, it is impossible to state definitively the full extent of the Communist military build-up in north Korea. Operational aircraft have been introduced where at the time of the armistice there were none in Korea north of the demarcation line. New and improved artillery and mortars have also entered north Korea since the armistice. Specifically, the Communists have illegally introduced large numbers of combat aircraft, mostly jet fighters and now maintain an air force of more than 700 planes based in north Korea. In addition to aircraft, the Communists have also illegally introduced large numbers of ground weapons into north Korea including artillery pieces in the category of 122 mm or larger, the 75/76 gun/howitzer, and 120 mm mortars.

The mission of the Unified Command in Korea under the Armistice Agreement is to maintain the cease-fire and, as paragraph 13 puts it, "insure the stability of the military armistice so as to facilitate the attainment of a peaceful settlement." In the light of Communist actions, to refrain from replacing obsolete materiel with the more modern weapons now available, would jeopardize the mission of the Unified Command and the original purposes of paragraph 13 as well as the entire Armistice Agreement. The maintenance of the stability of the situation in Korea requires preservation of the balance in relative effectiveness of the type of materiel in the hands of the two sides. And this is true quite independently of the proposition that violations by the other side are considered to entitle the Unified Command to be relieved of its corresponding obligations to the extent that will enable it to take appropriate defensive countermeasures.

It was in this spirit that the United States, acting as the Unified Command, discussed this matter with the other Governments which contributed forces to repel the aggression in Korea. It was decided that the United Nations Command would proceed as it deems necessary to replace its weapons in such a manner as to give full effect to its responsibilities under the resolutions of the United Nations and its consequent obligations.

Accordingly, on June 21, 1957, the United Nations Command announced to the Communist side in the Military Armistice Commission that "In view of these facts and your gross violations of the provisions of subparagraph 13(d), the United Nations Command considers that it is entitled to be relieved of corresponding obligations under the provisions of this subparagraph until such time as the relative military balance has been restored and your side, by its actions, has demonstrated its willingness to comply."

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In the announcement it was made clear that:

(1) The only purpose of the United Nations Command action is to restore the relative balance of military strength that the armistice was intended to preserve.

(2) The United Nations Command does not intend to start an arms race and draws attention to the fact that the replacement weapons are being deployed for defensive purposes only.

(3) The United Nations Command intends, as it has in the past, fully to observe the cease-fire and all the provisions of the Armistice Agreement save to the extent to which it is entitled to be relieved from compliance because of Communist violations of subparagraph 13(d) and of those covered in its statement to the Military Armistice Commission of May 31, 1956.

The United Nations Command is satisfied that, under the circumstances which now exist in Korea, the course of action taken is the one which best fulfills the essential purpose of paragraph 13, "to insure the stability of the Armistice," and of the Armistice Agreement as a whole to have "an armistice which will insure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed forces in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved."

The text of the statement by the representative of the United Nations Command in the Military Armistice Commission on June 21, 1957 is attached.

STATEMENT BY UNITED NATIONS COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION AT PANMUNJOM
KOREA JUNE 21, 1957

Almost four years have elapsed since the signing of the Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean conflict. The signatories of that document agreed to be bound and governed by a mutual application of the terms of the agreement.

With complete disregard for your obligations under subparagraph 13(d) of the Armistice Agreement, your side has continued to violate the provisions of that paragraph in the following particulars:

- (1) You have introduced reinforcing combat equipment of the types referred to in subparagraph 13(d) in contravention of the provisions allowing only piece-for-piece replacement of equipment worn out and destroyed after the date of the armistice.
- (2) You have also introduced combat equipment and weapons of entirely different types and capabilities from any you had in Korea at the time of the armistice.
- (3) You have failed to report introduction of such equipment.
- (4) You have introduced such equipment at ports of entry other than those specified in the Armistice Agreement.

The United Nations Command has again and again protested these violations by your side and has attempted in vain to have it comply with the provisions of the Armistice Agreement. All procedures established by the agreement for the settlement of disputes have been exhausted by the United Nations Command.

The United Nations Command intends to maintain the Armistice Agreement. However, the flagrant, repeated, and willful violations of that agreement by your side undermine the very provisions which were specifically designed to assure the stability of the military armistice. A cardinal purpose of these provisions was to insure the freezing of the military status quo by maintaining the relative military balance existing on July 27, 1953.

Your side, by its repeated violations of the Armistice Agreement, has seriously upset the relative military balance by modernizing and building up military capability in the area vastly superior to that which you had at the time the Armistice Agreement was signed. On the

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other hand, the United Nations Command, because of its scrupulous observance of the Armistice Agreement, has not increased its combat equipment and is still equipped with the same type of weapons it had at the time the Armistice Agreement was signed.

As a result of the long period of time since the armistice went into effect, the equipment and weapons of the United Nations Command have become obsolete and outmoded, and those needing replacement cannot be replaced from stocks on hand or currently in production. This situation aggravates the imbalance created by your breach of subparagraph 13(d) of the Armistice Agreement. The possibility that this situation would arise was not foreseen at the time the Armistice Agreement was negotiated, and, indeed, it would not have arisen had your side proceeded to negotiate, within three months and in good faith a "peaceful settlement" as was contemplated by the Armistice Agreement.

In view of these facts and your gross violations of the provisions of subparagraph 13(d), the United Nations Command considers that it is entitled to be relieved of corresponding obligations under the provisions of this subparagraph until such time as the relative military balance has been restored and your side, by its actions, has demonstrated its willingness to comply.

The stability of the armistice and the maintenance of the relative military balance, which it was the primary purpose of these provisions of the Armistice Agreement to insure, can now only be restored and maintained by the replacement by the United Nations Command of its old weapons with new items currently available. The United Nations Command is taking appropriate steps to this end.

It should be clearly understood that:

- (1) The only purpose of the United Nations Command action is to restore the relative balance of military strength that the armistice was intended to preserve.
- (2) The United Nations Command emphasizes the fact that the replacement weapons are being deployed for defensive purposes only.
- (3) The United Nations Command intends, as it has in the past, fully to observe the cease-fire provision of the Armistice Agreement. It intends also to observe all of the other provisions of the Armistice Agreement save to the extent to which it is entitled to be relieved from compliance because of your violations of subparagraph 13(d) and of those covered in its statement to the Military Armistice Commission of May 31, 1956.