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Statement made on november 13th 1957
by the Swedish representative, Mr. Åström, in
the First Committee of the United Nations Gene-
ral Assembly in regard to Korea:

Some references have been made in the debate to
the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission which was set
up as a part of the Korean armistice machinery. It has
been pointed out that developments in the last year have
had their effect on the work of the Commission. As Sweden
is a member of the Commission, it might be useful if I
outlined briefly on behalf of the Swedish delegation how
we view the situation in the light of these new develop-
ments.

The Commission was designed to carry out certain
functions of control, inspection and investigation until
such time as the political conference, which was also
envisaged in the Armistice Agreement, had been held and
had arrived at a final settlement of the Korean question.
It was on the understanding that the Commission would thus
only have to function for a limited period of time that
Sweden accepted to become a member. The Swedish Government
also made it clear from the very beginning that in their
view the powers given to the Commission were not sufficient
to assure effective control and verification.

The Commission has had to discharge its responsi-
bilities without having at its disposal the physical means
necessary to do it in a proper and responsible manner. At
the present time, the work of the Commission is at a virtual
standstill, to use the expression of the representative of
Poland. The one and only task of the Commission, as far as
the mandate is concerned as defined in the Armistice
Agreement, is to receive, analyse and forward to the
Military Armistice Commission the reports received from
the two parties to the Armistice Agreement on the entry



and exit of military personnel in North and South Korea respectively.

Under these circumstances, it is only natural that the Swedish Government have to reconsider anew the problem of their further participation in the Commission. Of course, we do not want, by an abrupt withdrawal, to create difficulties for the Military Armistice Commission or for any of the parties to the Armistice Agreement. We would take no action to cease our membership without giving ample notice to the parties. We are well aware that none of the parties to the Armistice Agreement has taken any initiative to dissolve the Commission, a fact which may be interpreted as a sign that they for their part consider that the continued existence of the Commission has a stabilizing influence on the situation in Korea. If that is the case, the Commission should evidently continue in being, and it is no wish on our part to see it dissolved or dismembered. I want to point out, however, that nothing would prevent the parties, should one member of the Commission signify its intention to terminate its term of duty, from agreeing on the appointment of a new member to take the place of the outgoing member.

I have wished to inform the Committee, in this way, of the preoccupations of the Swedish Government only in order to give you a fuller picture of certain aspects of the working of the Armistice Agreement. We know well that the continuance of the Agreement is of vital importance to the situation in Korea and is also one of the prerequisites for a peaceful, equitable and democratic settlement of the Korean question which we are all seeking.

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