

Return to Elsey

Ambassador Kirk to the Secretary of State

[Transcription of Telegram]

Moscow, June 29, 1950

[Received June 29, 1950,

1:02 p.m.]

I saw Gromyko at 5 p.m., taking Freers along, and Gromyko had Postoev and Lavrov [?] present. In an atmosphere of calm, and without constraint, Gromyko said that he had a statement to make in reply to mine of 27 June which he read in Russian, translation as follows:



"In connection with the statement of the Government of the United States of America transmitted by you on June 27, the Soviet Government has instructed me to state the following:

"1. In accordance with facts verified by the Soviet Government, the events taking place in Korea were provoked by an attack by forces of the South Korean authorities on border regions of North Korea. Therefore the responsibility for these events rests upon the South Korean authorities and upon those who stand behind their back.

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"2. As is known, the Soviet Government withdrew its troops from Korea earlier than the Government of the United States and thereby confirmed its traditional principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

And now as well the Soviet Government adheres to the principle of the impermissibility of interference by foreign

S - this seemed to be a signal

powers

powers in the internal affairs of Korea.

"3. It is not true that the Soviet Government refused to participate in meetings of the Security Council. In spite of its full willingness, the Soviet Government has not been able to take part in the meetings of the Security Council inasmuch as, because of the position of the Government of the United States, China, a permanent member of the Security Council, has not been admitted to the Council, which has made it impossible for the Security Council to take decisions having legal force"

Postoev then translated into English.

I then asked if this statement was really a reply to the last part of mine of 27 June (which I said I was sorry not to have been able to make to him in person on Tuesday-- and got nothing from Gromyko) wherein the United States Government asks the Government of the U.S.S.R. to "use its influence with the North Korean authorities to withdraw their invading forces immediately", adding that we hoped in this way to stop the fighting. Gromyko replied that the statement was complete in itself and should be taken as a whole. He added that I could always return if need be to discuss it further.

I assume that the Soviets will shortly release the text of their statement.



Handwritten note:
p. 11/15/54