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 Postov and Lavrov (?) present. In an atmos-
phere 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.

"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
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.