Report of Group on Cease-Fire in Korea

On 14 December 1950 the General Assembly adopted the following resolution which had been sponsored by thirteen Asian Powers:

"The General Assembly,

"viewing with grave concern the situation in the Far East,

"aware that immediate steps should be taken to prevent the conflict in Korea from spreading to other areas and to put an end to the fighting in Korea itself, and that further steps should then be taken for a peaceful settlement of existing issues in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

"requests the President of the General Assembly to constitute a group of three persons, including himself, to determine the basis on which a satisfactory cease-fire in Korea can be arranged and to make recommendations to the General Assembly as soon as possible."

2. In pursuance of the resolution, the President forthwith constituted a group consisting of Mr. L.B. Pearson of Canada, Sir Henry M. See of India and himself, and announced this fact to the General Assembly. The Group met almost immediately afterwards and decided to associate the Secretary-General of the United Nations with its work.

3. A copy of the resolution was sent on 15 December to Ambassador Wu, the representative of the People's Government of the People's Republic of China who was then in New York.

4. On 15 December, as a first step in carrying out its task, the Group consulted the representatives of the Unified Command as to what they considered..."
to be a satisfactory basis for a cease-fire. The suggestions which emerged from this consultation and which in the circumstances the Group felt constituted a reasonable basis for discussion, are summarised below:

(1) All governments and authorities concerned, including the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the North Korean authorities, shall order and enforce a cessation of all acts of armed forces in Korea. This cease-fire shall apply to all of Korea.

(2) There shall be established a demilitarised zone across Korea of approximately twenty miles in depth with the southern limit following generally the line of the 38th parallel.

(3) All ground forces shall remain in position or be withdrawn to the rear; forces, including guerrillas, within or in advance of the demilitarised zone must be moved to the rear of the demilitarised area; opposing air forces shall respect the demilitarised zone and the areas beyond the zone; opposing naval forces shall respect the waters contiguous to the land areas occupied by the opposing armed forces to the limit of 3 miles from shore.

(4) Supervision of the cease-fire shall be by a United Nations Commission whose members and designated observers shall ensure full compliance with the terms of the cease-fire. They shall have free and unlimited access to the whole of Korea. All governments and authorities shall co-operate with the Cease-Fire Commission and its designated observers in the performance of their duties.

(5) All governments and authorities shall cease promptly the introduction into Korea of any reinforcing or replacement units or personnel, including volunteers, and the introduction of additional war equipment and matériel. Such equipment and matériel will not include supplies required for the maintenance of health and welfare and such other supplies as may be authorized by the Cease-Fire Commission.

(6) Prisoners of war shall be exchanged on a one-for-one basis, pending final settlement of the Korean question.

(7) Appropriate provision shall be made in the cease-fire arrangements in regard to steps to ensure (a) the security of the forces; (b) the movement of refugees; and (c) the handling of other specific problems arising out of the cease-fire, including civil government and police power in the demilitarised zone.
(8) The General Assembly should be asked to confirm the cease-fire arrangements, which should continue in effect until superseded by further steps approved by the United Nations.

2. The Group then attempted to consult the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and, for this purpose, sent a message by hand to Ambassador Wai and repeated it by cable to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Peking. The text of this message is reproduced below:

"Dear Ambassador Wai,

"As you have already been informed by Resolution 1717, a copy of which was sent to you yesterday, a Committee was set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the previous day, December 13, consisting of myself and my two colleagues, Sir Bungnal Eau of India, and Mr. L. B. Pearson of Canada, charged with the duty of determining whether it is possible to arrange appropriate and satisfactory conditions for a cease-fire in Korea. The purpose of this cease-fire in Korea will be to prevent the conflict from spreading to other areas, to put an end to the fighting in Korea, and to provide an opportunity for considering what further steps should be taken for a peaceful settlement of existing issues, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

"The above Committee has now met representatives of the United Communist of Korea, and has discussed with them, in an exploratory manner, possible conditions upon which a cease-fire might be established. Since the Government of the Communist People's Republic of China has expressed strong views on the future of Korea, and about the present state of war

in that country, and since Chinese are participating in that warfare, the Committee wishes also to discuss with your Government its representatives, and with the military authorities in command of the forces operating in North Korea, possible conditions upon which a cease-fire might be established. For this purpose, we desire to see you at your earliest convenience, and we should be grateful to know when a meeting can be arranged.

"We realised that your Government which sent you here with other objects in mind, may prefer other arrangements by which a cease-fire can be discussed with them. We wish your Government to know that, in the interests of stopping the fighting in Korea and of facilitating a just/
settlement of the issue there in accordance with the principles of the
United Nations Charter, we are prepared to discuss cease-fire
arrangements with your Government or its representatives either here or
elsewhere, as would be mutually convenient. We urge only that
arrangements for these discussions should be made with the least possible
delay. With this in mind, we are sending the text of this communication
directly to your Government by telegram.

Yours sincerely,

Mawlullah Envera,

December 18, 1950.

6. On 18 December, Mr. Pearson, on behalf of the Group, submitted a brief
preliminary account of its activities to the First Committee, hoping that a
fuller report would be made in the near future.

7. On 16 December, the President, acting on behalf of the Group, had
asked himself of the good offices of the Swedish Delegation to transmit through
the Swedish Embassy in Peking a request to the Central People's Government
that Ambassador Wu be instructed to stay on in New York and discuss with the Group the
possibility of arranging a cease-fire. The reply to the request, communicated
to the President on 21 December, through the same channel was as follows:

"The Central People's Government acknowledges receipt of a message
dated 17th December 1950 from Mr. Pearson, President of the General Assembly,
transmitted via the Swedish Government, and asks the Swedish Government to
transmit the following reply to Mr. Pearson, President of the General Assembly.

"The representative of the People's Republic of China neither
participated in nor agreed to the adoption of the Resolution concerning the
so-called 2-man committee for cease-fire in Korea by United Nations General
Assembly. The Central People's Government has repeatedly declared that the
Central People's Government would regard as illegal and null and void all
major resolutions especially those concerning Asia which might be adopted
by the United Nations without the participation and approval of the duly
appointed delegates of the People's Republic of China. Therefore the
Central People's Government cannot instruct its representative General Wu
to continue to remain in Lake Success for negotiations with the above-
mentioned 2-man illegal Committee. After the Security Council unreasonably
voted against the 'Complaint against the United States armed aggression'
against Japan raised by the People's Republic of China General Wu was instructed by the Central People's Government to continue to stay at Lake Success for participation in the discussion of "the complaint of the U.S. aggression against China" submitted by the USSR representative; although he has waited for a long time and until the United Nations General Assembly was declared adjourned, he was still not given the opportunity to speak. Under such circumstances, the Central People's Government feels that there is no more necessity for General Wu and his staff to remain at Lake Success and has therefore instructed him to start their homeward journey on December 19.

As to the question of how the United Nations may get in touch with the Korean Democratic People's Republic the Central People's Government is of the opinion that United Nations should address direct inquiry to the Government of the Korean Democratic People's Republic.

8. On 19 December, acting on a recommendation from the sponsors of the twelve-Power resolution introduced in the First Committee on 14 December, the Group sent another message to the Foreign Minister of the Central People's Government. This was intended to remove any possible misunderstandings which may have arisen out of the separation of the twelve-Power resolution from the thirteen-Power resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December. The text of the message is given below:

"CHOU EN-LAI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT of PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PEKING, CHINA).

In the consideration which you are giving to our earlier message, we are anxious that there should be no misunderstanding as to the relationship between the United Nations Resolution establishing a cease fire group, and resolution proposed by twelve Asian Government, recommending appointment of a committee to meet as soon as possible and make recommendations for peaceful settlement of existing issues in Far East. It is our clear understanding and also that of the twelve Asian sponsors, that once a cease fire arrangement had been achieved, the negotiations visualised in the second resolution should be proceeded with at once. Indeed, the preamble to cease fire resolution states specifically that steps
that steps should be taken for a peaceful settlement when fighting in Korea is ended. It is also our view, as well as that of the twelve Asian governments sponsoring the second resolution, that Government of the People's Republic of China should be included in the Negotiating Committee referred to in that resolution. We feel that this Committee should become an effective channel for seeking peaceful solution of existing issues in Far East between the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China. For that purpose, in our opinion, it should be set up with minimum of delay, but to make that possible a "cease-fire" arrangement must be put into effect. This point of view has been communicated to your Delegation which left New York today, and we express the hope that you will give full weight to it.

Committee of the General Assembly

Husayn Edzwidz, President of the General Assembly
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Lester B. Pearson

9. On 22 December, the President of the General Assembly, in his capacity as such, received from the Foreign Minister of the People's Government the text of a statement issued by the latter in Peking on 22 December explaining the attitude of the People's Government on the Resolution constituting the Cease-Fire Group and on the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. This document is reproduced as an Annex. It appears to be in the nature of an answer to the Group's message of 25 December.

10. In these circumstances and in spite of its best efforts, the Group regrets that it has been unable to pursue discussion of a satisfactory cease-fire arrangement. It therefore feels that no recommendation in regard to a cease-fire can usefully be made by it at this time.

Annex 1
Mr. Ulysses W. Grant, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, has been appointed by the President of the Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, held in New York, as one of the three members of the 'peace committee' for the purpose of negotiating a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The statement issued on December 26th, by the United Nations News Agency, quoted in full below, contains the text of this statement:

The United Nations General Assembly, at its Fifth Session, has appointed three members of the 'peace committee' for the purpose of negotiating a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The statement issued on December 26th, by the United Nations News Agency, quoted in full below, contains the text of this statement:

The attitude of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China on the so-called "three-man committee for cease-fire in Korea" and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is to be found in a statement issued on December 25th. This statement, being broadcast by the United Nations News Agency on the same date, states that the original statement is hereby transmitted by cable for your information.

Chao Hsiao-Lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, in a statement to the press issued in Peking on December 26th, 1950, stated that the Chinese Government has not yet received any information as to the terms of the cease-fire agreement. He further stated that the Chinese Government will not participate in any peace talks unless such terms are acceptable to the Chinese people.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, however, has not yet considered the resolution adopted by the Chinese Government. This resolution provides for the establishment of a three-man committee, consisting of the President of the current session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and the President of the United States, to conduct talks to determine whether it is possible to arrange mutually satisfactory conditions for a cease-fire in Korea, and then to make recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly. With reference to this resolution, Chao Hsiao-Lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government, the People's Republic of China, issues the following statement:

"1. The Representative of the People's Republic of China neither participated in, nor agreed to the adoption of the resolution concerning the so-called "three-man committee for cease-fire in Korea" which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16th, 1950."

The Chinese Government has not yet received any news of the terms of the cease-fire agreement. The Chinese Government will not participate in any peace talks unless such terms are acceptable to the Chinese people. The Chinese Government will announce its position on the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16th, 1950, in due course.
committee for cease-fire in Korea" by the United Nations General Assembly. Prior to this, the Central People's Government of the Peoples Republic of China had repeatedly declared that the Central People's Government of the Peoples Republic of China would regard all illegal and null and void all resolutions on major problems, especially those concerning the major problems of Asia, which might be adopted by the United Nations without the participation and concurrence of the duly appointed Delegates of the Peoples Republic of China. Therefore, the Government of the Peoples Republic of China and its Delegates are not prepared to make any contact with the above mentioned illegal "three-man committee".

"We think the Central People's Government of the Peoples Republic of China has always held and still holds that the hostilities in Korea should be specifically brought to an end. In order to end the hostilities in Korea, genuine peace must be restored in Korea, and the Korean people must have genuine freedom to settle their own problems. The reason why the hostilities in Korea have not yet been put to an end is precisely because of the fact that the United States Government has despatched troops to invade Korea and is continuing and extending its policies of aggression and war. As far back as the beginning of the hostilities in Korea, we have stood for the peaceful settlement and localization of the Korean problem. For this reason, the Government of the Peoples Republic of China and that of the USSR have repeatedly proposed that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Korea, and that the Korean people be left alone to settle the Korean problem themselves. However, the United States Government not only rejected such a proposal, but also rejected negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem. When the invading troops of the United States arrogantly crossed the 38th parallel, at the beginning of the month of October, the United States Government, recklessly ignoring warnings from all quarters and following the provocative crossing of the border by Syngman Rhee in June, thoroughly destroyed, and hence obliterated forever this demonstrative line of political geography. In the later part of November, when the Representative of the Peoples Republic of China was invited to take part in the discussion by the Security Council on the charge against United States aggression in Taiwan, he again submitted the proposal that the United States and other foreign troops be all withdrawn from Korea, and that the People of South and North Korea be left alone to settle their domestic affairs. But the United Nations Security Council, under the domination of the United States, rejected this reasonable peace proposal from the Government of the Peoples Republic of China. From this it is evident that since the United States Government has from the very beginning refused to withdraw its troops, it has absolutely no sincerity in ending the hostilities in Korea, still less in letting the Korean people have genuine peace and freedom.
“...This being the case, why does the American Delegate, Mr. Austin, now favour an immediate cease-fire in Korea, and why does President Truman also express willingness to conduct negotiations to settle the hostilities in Korea? It is not difficult to understand that, when the American invading troops were landing at Inchon, pressing the 38th parallel or pressing toward the Yalu-Navy, they did not favour an immediate cease-fire and were not willing to conduct negotiations. It is only today when the American invading troops have sustained defeats, that they favour an immediate cease-fire and the conducting of negotiations after the cease-fire. Very obviously, they opposed peace yesterday, so that the United States might continue to extend her aggression; and they favour a cease-fire today, so that the United States may gain a breathing space and prepare to attack again, or at least hold their present aggressive position in preparation for further advances. What they care about is not the interests of the Korean people and the Asian peoples, nor those of the American people: They are only interested in how American imperialists can maintain their invading troops and aggressive activities in Korea, how they can continue to invade and occupy China's Taiwan and how they can intensify the preparation for war in the capitalist world. Therefore, the Representative of MacArthur's Headquarters said bluntly that they would accept a cease-fire only on a military basis and without any political conditions. This means that, all the status of aggression will remain the same after the cease-fire, so that they can fight again when they are prepared. Further, they could take this opportunity to declare the existence of a state of emergency and to prepare for mobilization in the United States, in Western Europe and Japan, thus driving the peoples of the United States, Western Europe and Japan down into the abyss of war. Is this not what MacArthur, Truman, Eisenhower, Marshall and MacArthur are doing now? With reference to the so-called proposal for cease-fire first and negotiations afterwards, irrespective of the fact that the proposal by the twelve nations had neither been adopted by the Security Council nor by the United Nations General Assembly and irrespective of what countries are to be included in the negotiating conference and even if all these had been agreed upon, the agenda and contents of the negotiation could still be discussed endlessly after the cease-fire. If the conference is not a conference of the legal Security Council or of the legal Five Power conferences, or is not affiliated to these, the U.S. Government in the last resort can still manipulate its voting machine.
Thus to discuss the cease-fire and start negotiations not on the basis of
the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and the settling of Korean
domestic affairs by the Korean people themselves is to act hypocritically and
would therefore suit the designs of the U.S. Government, and hence cannot
satisfy the sincere desires of the peace-loving peoples of the world. The
three-man committee - a cease-fire on the spot - peace negotiations - launching
of a huge offensive... - the Marshall formula is not in the least unfamiliar to
the Chinese people, because in 1944, General Marshall assisted Chiang Kai-Shek
in this way, repeatedly for a whole year, and in the end had to admit failure
and leave. Will the people of China, who had learned this lesson in 1944 and
later gained victory, fall into such a trap today? No, the old trick of General
Marshall will not work again in the United Nations.

Moreover, the present issues are definitely not confined to the Korean
problem. While the United States Government was engineering the hostilities in
Korea, it despatched the Seventh Fleet to invade China's Taiwan and then
bombed North-East China, fired on Chinese merchant vessels and denigrated its
aggression in East Asia. Against all this, the Central People's Government of the
Peoples Republic of China has repeatedly lodged charges with the United Nations.
But under American domination, the majority in the United Nations has not only
upheld American aggression against Korea and supported American invasion and
occupation of Taiwan, the bombing of North-East China, but also rejected the three
proposals submitted by our representative on the charge against the United States
for armed aggression against Taiwan, and shelved the charge of United States
aggression against China made by the Delegate of the Soviet Union. Our
Representative was kept waiting for a long time and until the First Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly was inordinately adjourned, he was not given
a chance to speak.

This attitude which was taken by the majority of the United Nations under the
domination of the Anglo-American bloc, obviously violates the United Nations
Charter and its purpose. They are furthering rather than checking American
aggression. They are undermining rather than assuring world peace.
What particularly arouses the world's indignation is that, in spite of
the fact that during the past several months the United Nations held innumerable
discussions on China or on important questions concerning China, the Delegatee
of the People's Republic of China, who are the only Representatives of the four
hundred and seventy-five million people of China, are still being kept out of the
doors of the United Nations, whereas the Representatives of a handful of the
Chiang K'ai Shek reactionary elements are still being allowed to usurp the
seats of the Chinese Delegation in the United Nations. To such an extent the
Chinese people have been slighted and insulted.

Therefore, the Chinese people who, impelled by righteous indignation,
have risen to volunteer in resisting the United States and helping Korea, and
thus protecting their homes and defending their country are absolutely
responsible and justified in so doing. The Chinese people's volunteers, who have
been forced to take up arms side by side with the Korean People's Army to resist
the American aggressors, under the Unified Command of the Government of the
Korean Democratic People's Republic, are fighting for their own existence,
fighting to aid Korea and fighting for the peace of East Asia as well as the
peace of the whole world.

It must be pointed out that the proposal for a peaceful settlement of the
Korean problem submitted by the majority of the Delegates of the thirteen Asian
and Arabian nations was originally based on their desire for peace, and this is
understandable. But they have failed to see through the whole intrigue of the
United States Government in supporting the proposal for a cease-fire first
and negotiations afterwards, and therefore they have not seriously considered
the basic proposals of the Chinese Government concerning the peaceful settlement
of the Korean problem.

The original thirteen-nation resolution was not wholly palatable to the
United States Government, so it was separated into two resolutions. The first
resolution, or the resolution providing for the so-called "three men committee
for cease-fire in Korea", which is satisfactory to the United States, was, under
pressure, given priority for discussion and was consequently adopted by the
United Nations General Assembly. But the second resolution, or the resolution
providing for a so-called "negotiating conference" "negotiating commission",
with which the United States was either not satisfied, or not quite satisfied,
was therefore favored for the time being.

The difference between these two resolutions was remarkably demonstrated by the attitude of the Philippine Delegations. The Philippine Delegation, who always followed in the footsteps of the United States, only agreed to the first resolution but withdrew from the second resolution. This trait of close cooperation displayed by the Filipinos is in the rule of demanding a cease-fire and by the United States to the role of supporting it has thus been exposed.

From this fact itself, the lesson can be drawn that if the Asian and
Arabian nations wish to gain genuine peace, they must free themselves from
United States pressure and must abandon the "three man committee for cease-fire
in Korea", and give up the idea of cease-fire first and negotiations afterwards.

The Central Peoples Government of the Peoples Republic of China solemnly
declares that the Chinese people eagerly hope that the hostilities in Korea can
be settled peacefully. We firmly insist that, as a basis for negotiating for
a general settlement of the Korean problem, all foreign troops must be withdrawn
from Korea, and Korea's domestic affairs must be settled by the Korean people
themselves. The American aggression forces must be withdrawn from Taiwan. And
the representatives of the Peoples Republic of China must obtain a legitimate
status in the United Nations. These points are not only the justified demands
of the Chinese people and the Korean people; they are also the urgent desire of
all progressive public opinion throughout the world. To put aside these points
would make it impossible to settle peacefully the Korean problem and the important
problems of Asia.