MESSAGE CENTER

FROM: Seoul
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 405, April 18

Following released 11 a.m., April 18

"Special statement by President Rhee."

"The rejection of the application of the Republic of Korea for membership in the United Nations by the veto of the Soviet Union demonstrated the Soviet Union's continuing hostility toward the duly constituted, lawful Government of Korea. By a vote of 48 to 6 the member countries of the United Nations approved this government.

"At the same time, the Korean Government in cooperation with the UN and the US has been carrying out its responsibilities in the task of implementing the terms of the GA resolutions of November 1947 and December 1948.

"Included in the resolutions were provisions for the organization of security forces for our national defense. Our defense forces are now rapidly approaching the point of which our security can be assured, provided the ROK is not called upon to face attack from foreign sources. Discussions, therefore, are now under way between representatives of the ROK and of the US concerning the establishment of a date in the course of several months for the withdrawal from Korea of US troops.

"The UNCGK is being advised of the progress of these discussions."

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discussion and the commission's advice and assistance are playing an integral part in these discussions. This step, however, in no way signifies a lessening of US commitment and interest in the ROK. Rather, it is accompanied by renewed US assurances to continue its economic, military, technical and other assistance for the welfare and safety of the ROK. An American military mission will continue to function in Korea, lending its offices to the improvement and expansion of our defense forces. These discussions are proceeding in full conformity with the terms of reference of the several UNDA resolutions."

As received. Verified upon request.

PPM: ALJ