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11-23 July

- Revised text of D.H.
- — " — of President of Assembly,
Mr. Pearson.

REVISED TEXT OF THE STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON BEHALF OF THE PRESI-
DENT REGARDING RECONVENING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IN THE EVENT OF AN ARMISTICE

"The President of the General Assembly, Mr. L. B. Pearson,
upon being informed that the armistice had been signed, stated
that he was taking immediate steps to convene the General
Assembly in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Assembly
at its winter session. Mr. Pearson therefore plans to request
the Assembly to convene on an early date. Delegations will be
notified shortly regarding the specific date."

The above text dictated over the telephone
by Miss Kelly, Canadian Delegation, today,
at the request of Mr. Johnson, Permanent
Representative.

11 July 1953

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL JULY 23

SUBJECT: POST ARMISTICE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF ASSEMBLY

Following is revised text of statement which Mr. Pearson now proposes to issue as President of the Assembly if the Armistice is signed and if signing takes place in present atmosphere. Text begins:

The good news from Korea reflects the wishes of millions throughout the world that the fighting in that unhappy land should be brought to an end on honourable terms. The conclusion of an Armistice in Korea is, however, more than a "cease-fire". It is an indispensable step toward a peaceful settlement in that area.

Our first thought at this moment is for those who have defended the principles of the United Nations with their lives, and in the hope that their devotion might save us from the destroying horror of another world war.

On June 25, 1950, the United Nations faced its greatest challenge; the aggression launched against the Republic of Korea. The challenge was met by the United Nations in the spirit of the obligations of the Charter and, in the belief that in resisting aggression in Korea, the United Nations was at the same time reducing the chance of successful aggression elsewhere.

In nearly three years of bitter fighting, under conditions of the utmost difficulty, the forces under the United Nations Command -- mainly from the Republic of Korea and the United States -- have carried out their assigned task with courage and perseverance.

Once the military objective of the United Nations action in Korea had been substantially achieved, determined efforts were made, extending over a period of many months, to bring the fighting to an end by an honourable armistice.

The United Nations resolution on Korea which was supported by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly on December 3, 1952, represented an important and constructive effort to achieve such an armistice. It was adopted after a full and free exchange of views between members of the United Nations representing every continent; and it set forth principles and procedures which provided the framework for subsequent negotiations, and for the agreement which has now been reached.

The terms of the Armistice must now be faithfully and scrupulously observed by all concerned. The United Nations has the right to expect this so that progress can be made toward political settlement and reconstruction in a free, democratic and united Korea -- a result for which the Korean people have fought so valiantly. Such a settlement could lead to a solution of outstanding issues in the whole of the Far East.

Any denunciation or obstruction of the Armistice terms would prevent this good result. Any move to this end -- or even more, any action which would violate the Armistice terms -- would be, I am sure, repudiated and condemned by the United Nations.

The magnitude of the effort already made for peace and unification in Korea is the measure of the task which lies ahead. We shall only succeed if we maintain the spirit of joint endeavour that has carried us to this point on the long and hard road to peace.

2. Following is text of paragraphs to be used instead of the last three paragraphs above in the event that, when the Armistice is signed, Syngman Rhee's attitude is more co-operative than at present. Text begins:

The terms of the Armistice must now be faithfully and scrupulously observed by all concerned if the progress which we have the right to expect is now to be made toward political settlement and reconstruction in a free, democratic and united Korea -- a result for which the Korean people have fought so valiantly. Such a settlement could lead to a solution of outstanding issues in the whole of the Far East.

The magnitude of the effort already made for peace and unification in Korea is the measure of the task which lies ahead. We shall only succeed if we maintain the spirit of joint endeavor that has carried us to this point on the long and hard road to peace. Text ends.

3. Please inform Mr. Hammarskjold at your earliest convenience and tell him that Mr. Pearson plans to record the message Tuesday morning before leaving Ottawa. Message ends.