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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Korea - 1954

10 Jan. - 5 Feb.

Pandit, Vijaya Lakshmi (President of  
the U. N. Gen. Assembly)  
- India Delegation to U. N.

- 4 letters from D. H.
- 1 letter to D. H.

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SECRET

INDIA DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
3 EAST 64TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

January 10, 1954

Text of Government of India communication  
10 January 1954 to the President United Nations General  
Assembly.

Begins: I have the honour to refer to Resolution  
A/173 adopted at the 470th Plenary meeting of the General  
Assembly on the 8 December 1953.

2. It may be recalled that the Resolution arose out  
of the initiative of the Indian Delegation. In view of the  
situation and developments in Korea the Delegation refrained  
on the one hand from pressing for a full debate on agenda  
item 18a during the sitting of the Assembly and on the other  
desired the Assembly to be reconvened on the 9 February 1954  
for the same reasons. As a result of the proceedings in the  
Committee and agreements reached the present Resolution was  
jointly submitted by Brazil and India and adopted by the  
Assembly without opposition.

3. Sub-para (b) of para (2) of the said Resolution  
provides for a member state to make a request to the President  
of the General Assembly for the reconvening of the Assembly  
"by reason of developments in respect of the Korean question".

4. The Government of India as you are aware are  
much involved and concerned by the developments in respect



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of the Korean question by reason of India's Chairmanship of the NNRC and the presence of the Custodial Force India in the demilitarised zone. They are also much concerned about the Korean question as a whole in view of the fact that little progress in the direction of the objectives of the United Nations has been made since the signature of the Armistice Agreement.

5. The Government of India are fully aware of the endeavours that have been made to bring about the Political Conference which however has not only not met but there appears little prospect of its being convened in the near future.

6. In respect of repatriation, the NNRC has been able to implement the Repatriation Agreement only to a limited extent. Any fuller implementation of the Repatriation Agreement, or endeavour to that end, is possible only by agreement between or with two Commands in respect of the extension of the periods of explanation and custody and the consideration of alternative procedures by them in regard to status and disposition of prisoners in view of the Political Conference not being convened.

7. The NNRC has repeatedly made suggestions and requests to both sides to seek such agreements and finally letters to each side dated the 2 January 1954 requested



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firm answers to questions relating to the above matters.

8. The Commission has received answers from both sides. They do not offer any basis for further or fuller implementation of the Repatriation Agreement. On the other hand they place beyond doubt the position that the C.F.I. would have to cease custody on the 23 January and the dissolution of the Commission must take place before the 23 February.

9. The Government of India has after careful and anxious consideration advised their representative, the Chairman of the NNRC, that in the circumstances that obtain, the two Commands should be informed that (a) the Commission and the C.F.I. cannot but cease custodial function and duties on the 23 January; (b) the Commission cannot but effect its dissolution before 23 February; and (c) the Commission can neither release the prisoners nor "declare their relief to civilian status" or decide as to their disposition.

10. The Government of India considers that the only lawful, correct and peaceful course that the Commission can adopt in the context of the situation that confronts it is to restore the unrepatriated prisoners of war to former and respective detaining sides. The Government of India has advised their representative, the Chairman of the NNRC,



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accordingly.

11. The NNRC has submitted interim reports to two Commands and will no doubt make its final report before its dissolution.

12. The procedures laid down in the Repatriation Agreement and its processes having been implemented but to a limited extent, the Commission, having found itself incapacitated from further implementation of them, incapacitated from making any decision on the status and disposition of prisoners and having found itself therefore obliged to restore prisoners to status quo ante, Government of India considers that the Korean problem must now be considered by the Assembly both in respect of the working of the Commission and the issues which it has found itself incapacitated from resolving.

13. Government of India also considers that the main aim of the United Nations in Korea namely the settlement of the Korean question has made little progress since signing of Armistice. The negotiations in respect of Political Conference have reached deadlock the Armistice rests uneasily on the basis of two sides remaining on a war footing and threats of violence menace even this uneasiness and armed stalemate.

14. Government of India has always exercised



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much caution and restraint in their approach to this question and in making any proposals in regard to it having regard to the complexity and gravity of the issues involved. in the

15. In view however of the position of the prisoners of war issue as set out herein and India's special responsibility in respect of it both as Chairman of the NNRC and the role of the C.F.I. in Korea Government of India feels that the consideration of the Korean question by the General Assembly should take place in reasonable time before the dissolution of the NNRC.

16. Further the deadlock in respect of Political Conference and the lack of any other step which would help towards settlement of the Korean question also renders consideration of it by the Assembly necessary, appropriate and urgent.

17. Government of India requests you Madame President on whom General Assembly has placed responsibility of reconvening the Eighth Session to do so at an early date and in reasonable time prior to the dissolution of the NNRC.

I avail myself of the opportunity to convey to you Madame President the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ends.

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SECRET

INDIA DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
3 EAST 64TH STREET  
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

January 10, 1954

Message to the Secretary General of the United Nations  
from the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

Begins: I send herewith a copy of a communication I have received today from the Government of India in respect of the Korean question and arising from Resolution A/173 passed by the General Assembly on the 8th December 1953.

2. The Government of India, in making this request to me, have cited and availed themselves of the provisions of sub-para (b) of para 2 of the Resolution. The Resolution, as you are aware, requests the President to reconvene the Eighth Session "with the concurrence of the majority of member states".

3. I consider that the request of the Government of India is warranted by the developments in respect of the Korean question as contemplated by the Resolution and one which, I venture to think, will meet with the favourable response of member states.

4. The Government of India have made no specific suggestion as to the date of reconvening the Eighth Session, but have requested that it should be in "reasonable time prior to the dissolution of the NNRC". An appropriate date,



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in my judgment, would be the 9th February, which falls midway between the two relevant dates of the 23rd January and 23rd February and is also on a Tuesday which, as you know, is the day of the week on which the General Assembly has usually been convened.

5. I therefore propose to seek the concurrence of member states to the convening of the General Assembly on the 9th February at 1500 hours at New York.

6. In view of the limited time available I am telegraphing this communication to you and shall be grateful if you will also telegraph in the usual manner my communication to member states, text of which I place below. I would also appreciate your informing me from time to time of the replies received. <sup>Par/it</sup> Ends.

Text of communication to member states.

Begins: I have the honour to refer to Resolution A/173 passed by the General Assembly on the 8th December 1953.

2. The Government of India have availed themselves of the provisions in sub-para (b) of para 2 of the said Resolution and requested me to reconvene the Eighth Session of the General Assembly "in reasonable time/<sup>prior</sup> to the date of the dissolution of the NNRC" which, they inform me, should take place before the 23rd February.

3. The request made by the Government of India



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is in my considered judgment, warranted by the "developments in respect of the Korean question" as contemplated by the General Assembly's Resolution.

4. The Government of India have made no specific suggestion as to the date of reconvening the Eighth Session. An appropriate date, in my judgment, would be the 9th February, which falls midway between the two relevant dates of the 23rd January and 23rd February and is also on a Tuesday which, as you know, is the day of the week on which the General Assembly has usually been convened.

5. In pursuance of the request made to me by the General Assembly, I request your concurrence to the initiative I am taking in reconvening the Eighth Session of the General Assembly at New York on Tuesday, the 9th February, 1954, at 1500 hours. In view of the limited time available, I shall be grateful if you will communicate your reply to the Secretary General by telegram, as early as possible, and, in any event, prior to the 22nd January. If, for any reason, your reply is not received by that date, I shall venture to presume your concurrence with the initiative I have taken in this matter.

6. I feel sure that member states, having regard to the grave responsibilities resting on the Commission and particularly, on its Chairman, and on the Custodial Force of



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India, as well as the importance of the unresolved aspects of the Korean question and the continuing deadlock, will readily concur in the initiative that I have taken in pursuance of the General Assembly's Resolution.

Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Ends.

The Secretary-General presents his compliments to

and has the honour, following upon a request by the President of the General Assembly, to transmit the text of a communication dated 10 January 1954 from the President with regard to reconvening of the eighth session of the General Assembly on 9 February.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of the communication, the Secretary-General would appreciate receiving the reply of your Government as early as possible, and in any event, prior to 22 January 1954.

11 January 1954

COMMUNICATION DATED 10 JANUARY 1954  
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TO ALL MEMBER STATES

1. I have the honour to refer to A/RESOLUTION/173 passed by the General Assembly on 8 December 1953.

2. The Government of India have availed themselves of the provisions in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 of the said resolution and requested me to reconvene the eighth session of the General Assembly "in reasonable time prior to the date of the dissolution of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission" which, they inform me, should take place before 23 February.

3. The request made by the Government of India is, in my considered judgment, warranted by the "developments in respect of the Korean question" as contemplated by the General Assembly's resolution.

4. The Government of India have made no specific suggestion as to the date of reconvening the eighth session. An appropriate date, in my judgment, would be 9 February, which falls midway between the two relevant dates of 23 January and 23 February and is also on a Tuesday which, as you know, is the day of the week on which the General Assembly has usually been convened.

5. In pursuance of the request made to me by the General Assembly, I request your concurrence to the initiative I am taking in reconvening the eighth session of the General Assembly at New York on Tuesday, 9 February 1954, at 1500 hours. In view of the limited time available, I shall be grateful if you will communicate your reply to the Secretary-General by telegram, as early as possible and, in any event, prior to 22 January. If, for any reason, your reply is not received by that date, I shall venture to presume your concurrence with the initiative I have taken in this matter.

6. I feel sure that Member States, having regard to the grave responsibilities resting on the Commission and particularly on its Chairman, and on the Custodial Force of India, as well as the importance of the unresolved aspects of the Korean question and the continuing deadlock, will readily concur in the initiative that I have taken in pursuance of the General Assembly's resolution.

(Signed) Vijaya Lakshmi PANDIT

Message from the Secretary-General in reply to message from the President of the General Assembly of 10 January 1954:

"I RECEIVED YESTERDAY NIGHT YOUR MESSAGE OF JANUARY 10TH WITH ANNEXES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISH THE COMMUNICATION TO MEMBER STATES AS DRAFTED BY YOU HAS BEEN SENT IN THE USUAL MANNER TO THE MEMBER STATES.

YOUR INITIATIVE RAISES IN MY MIND THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1) I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE DECISION REFERRED TO BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH NNRC HAS FOUND ITSELF OBLIGED TO RESTORE PRISONERS TO STATUS QUO ANTE, A DECISION WHICH I PERSONALLY FIND QUESTIONABLE.

2) IF A DECISION OF NNRC TO THAT EFFECT IS CONSIDERED TO CALL FOR A DISCUSSION IN THE ASSEMBLY THIS DISCUSSION SEEMS TO BE NEEDED PRIOR TO JANUARY 22ND.

3) I AM NOT INFORMED OF ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENTS OF THE PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE POLITICAL CONFERENCE AS IN MY VIEW WOULD WARRANT ALREADY NOW THE CONCLUSION THAT THE KOREAN QUESTION IN ITS ENTIRETY SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

IN VIEW OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE PUT TO ME BY DELEGATIONS I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM YOU AS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS."

Message from the Secretary-General in reply to message from the President of the General Assembly of 10 January 1954:

"I RECEIVED YESTERDAY NIGHT YOUR MESSAGE OF JANUARY 10TH WITH ANNEXES. IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISH THE COMMUNICATION TO MEMBER STATES AS DRAFTED BY YOU HAS BEEN SENT IN THE USUAL MANNER TO THE MEMBER STATES.

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IN VIEW OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE PUT TO ME BY DELEGATIONS I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SUCH ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM YOU AS MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS."

15 January 1954

Her Excellency  
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit  
President  
United Nations General Assembly  
c/o Ministry of External Affairs  
New Dehli, India

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SEVERAL COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTER OF JANUARY ELEVENTH.

REPLIES SO FAR RECEIVED FOLLOW: IRAQ AGREES. USSR, BYELORUSSIA, UKRAINE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AGREE WITH QUALIFICATION THAT IN VIEW SITUATION WHICH HAS ARISEN PANMUNJOM USSR CONSIDERS NECESSARY POINT OUT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO CONVENE ASSEMBLY EARLIER THAN JANUARY TWENTY SECOND. GREECE STATES IT SEEMS UNLIKELY IT WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE DECISION BY DATE STIPULATED AND LACK OF ANSWER IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS ENGAGING GREECE AFFIRMATIVELY. US REPLY IS TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY IN ITS ENTIRETY.

SIMPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS INDICATING TRANSMITTAL OF MESSAGES TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS RECEIVED FROM MEXICO, BOLIVIA, EL SALVADOR, AUSTRALIA AND PERU.

AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF KEY DELEGATIONS FEEL THAT A VIEW THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE UNABLE TO GIVE FINAL DECISION BY JANUARY TWENTY SECOND IS WIDELY SHARED. I UNDERSTAND THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND WOULD ADVISE THAT YOU EXTEND PERIOD OF DEADLINE FOR ANSWERS BY SEVERAL DAYS AND PREFERABLY A FULL WEEK.

I HAVE IMPRESSION ALSO IN TALKING TO DELEGATIONS THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONCERN ABOUT INTERPRETATION OF PARAGRAPH FIVE YOUR COMMUNICATION REGARDING CLASSIFICATION OF THOSE WHO DO NOT REPLY AS AFFIRMATIVE ANSWERS.

IN LIGHT OF THESE REACTIONS AND OF HISTORY OF DISCUSSION PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AND IN ABSENCE OF PRECEDENTS IN THIS REGARD AS WELL AS IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVED I BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO RECONSIDER YOUR POSITION. IN CONNEXION WITH LAST TWO POINTS IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO TRANSMIT THROUGH ME TO DELEGATIONS A MODIFICATION OF YOUR MESSAGE TO THEM.

DUE TO PREVALENCE WITH WHICH PRESS RECEIVES INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM DELEGATIONS REGARDING THEIR POSITIONS I FEEL IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD RELEASE OF INFORMATION HERE UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT. WILL THEREFORE BE COMPELLED TO RELEASE INFORMATION HERE AS SOON AS WE HAVE INITIATED TRANSMITTAL TO YOU.

DAG HAMMARSKJOLD  
SECRETARY GENERAL

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There was of course at one stage some unhappiness among delegations about the original deadline and the interpretation of concurrence. However, much of that sentiment was liquidated when you approved the modification of these two points.

I think it is of great value to our smooth planning of the future pattern of possible Assembly meetings for us to remain in close contact with each other by letter or cable. On the basis of the current contacts possible here, I can, on my side, keep you informed about the attitude of delegations with respect to current issues. If a situation should arise calling for a possible meeting of the Assembly, I feel that a consultation between us on the procedural pattern to be followed would prove useful.

I would appreciate on your side an occasional appraisal of the situation as you see it. My best judgment at the moment is that there would not seem to be any prospect for the calling of the Assembly for several months, unless some emergency should arise.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General

Enclosures (65)

P.S. I am also enclosing a copy of document A/2636 containing the text of a cablegram of 29 January 1954 addressed to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

D.H.

SG 25/01 (8th)

30 January 1954

Dear Madame Pandit,

.....  
Enclosed I am sending you copies of all the communications received in reply to your communication of 10 January 1954 with regard to reconvening the eighth session of the General Assembly on 9 February.

We shall also send you the first of the week a copy of document A/2635. Since there have been many delegation inquiries regarding the exact form of the replies, we felt it desirable to provide more information in the summary of the poll than has been the case in past polls of delegations. The annex which will be attached to the document will consist of extracts from the replies of delegations.

Once the call for the Assembly had been initiated, I felt that on balance - with reservation for possible new developments of the Pammjcm talks - it would have been better that the Assembly should actually have been convened on the date suggested. If I may appraise the attitude of delegations on the question, their rather cool and unenthusiastic response to the call arose from (a) the feeling that little value could be derived from a discussion of the prisoner-of-war issue at its present stage; (b) that if there was a genuine prospect that the Pammjcm conversations were to be resumed, full opportunity should be given for their development freed from possible effects of a prior or simultaneous Assembly discussion, less likely to yield positive results than such conversations.

Additional factors affecting the attitude of delegations were the Berlin Conference and the possible conflict of the General Assembly with the Conference of the Organization of American States.

Her Excellency  
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit  
President  
United Nations General Assembly  
c/o Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi, India.

SG 25/01(8th)

3 February 1954

Dear Madame Pandit,

.....

Enclosed I am sending you the text of documents A/2637 and A/2635/Add.1. The former contains the text of a cablegram from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the latter concerns a communication from Panama that their letter to me of 18 January be interpreted as not concurring to the reconvening of the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Dag Hammarskjold  
Secretary-GeneralHer Excellency  
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit  
President  
United Nations General Assembly  
c/o Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi, India.

5 February 1954

Dear Madam Pandit,

Before you left New York we talked about a proper time for your return. We mentioned the beginning of February. However, I promised you to write and tell you if I felt that you could delay your return here for yet some time. In line with this promise I would like to send you a line on the matter.

As we are not going to have a session of the General Assembly in February and as the Inter-American Conference in Caracas will take practically all of March, I do not think it likely that - short of an emergency - we will see any very active development here before April. I think that you would feel that you would lose your time if you were here. I don't know anything about your present plans, but in the light of what I have said, I consider that you should not feel under any pressure to return to New York.

We also talked about my plan to get Professor Bokhari for the Department of Public Information and you promised me to explain to Premier Nehru the considerations which led me to my offer to Bokhari. That offer is so far conditional, but I feel that I have to make it final in order to enable him to form his plans for the future. I had hoped to have a chance of bringing it up with you again at the beginning of this month on your return to New York. Now, with the possibility of a postponement, I would like to ask you to send me a line on the matter. I fear that, if I do not make a definite arrangement very soon, I run the risk of losing a man who undoubtedly could render invaluable services to the United Nations in the proposed capacity.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Her Excellency  
Mme. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit  
President of the General Assembly  
of the United Nations  
c/o Ministry for External Affairs  
New Dehli, India