

DOCUMENT

Report of the Hungarian Embassy in Pyongyang to the foreign minister 3 March 1977

Embassy of the Hungarian

People's Republic

Reference number: 44/77.

Written: in 4 copies

Centre: 3 copies

Foreign representation: 1 copy

Written by Lajos Lelkes

Typed by Á. Klekot

Top secret!

Brussels, 3 March 1977.

Subject: World Conference on the
Peaceful Reunification of Korea

Enclosure: Documents of the
conference

Comrade Foreign Minister Frigyes Puja

Budapest

The "World Conference on the Peaceful Reunification of Korea" held its meeting in Brussels on 21-22 February 1977. /Conference mondiale pour la Réunification pacifique de la Corée/. In the Belgian preparatory committee undertaking the organization of the conference, apart from the leading functionaries of the Belgian Socialist Party and the Belgian Communist Party, participated Christian democratic public figures as well. Members of the international patronizing committee included: Ratsiraka, the President of the Malgas Republic, Eyadema, the President of the Republic of Togo, Kerekon, the President of the People's Republic of Benin, Narida Domi, the leader of the Japanese Socialist party, Minobe, the governor of Tokyo, Carillo, the Secretary-General of the Spanish Communist Party, Romoulo, the President of the University of Panama, the special counsellor of the head of state.

At the conference participated approx. 160 delegates from 50 European, Asian, African, North- and Latin-American countries; seven international organizations were represented including the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Afro-Asian

Solidarity Committee, the Christian Peace Conference, the Tri-Continental Movement, etc. Out of the socialist countries, Yugoslavia and Cuba were represented by official delegations. The socialist countries belonging to the Warsaw Treaty were not officially invited to the conference, but the organizers invited the foreign representations of the socialist countries in Brussels as observers. On agreement, the embassies of closely co-operating socialist countries decided to be represented by lower-ranking diplomats. From our embassy Comrade First Secretary Lajos Lelkes was present. Present were one of the first secretaries of the Embassy to Brussels of the PR of China and the head of Chinese intelligence.

The PDRK government was represented at the conference by Minister of Education Kim-Sun Ki as the head of a small delegation.

As far as the West-European communist parties are concerned, the French CP and the Italian CP were represented by Central Committee members, the Belgian CP sent a Political Committee member, all of whom actively participated in the work. Both the Yugoslav Communist Alliance and the Cuban CP were represented by CC members.

At the conference, the general report was submitted by Ichigawa Makodo, the ex-president of the Japanese SOHYO trade union / find the script of his speech enclosed/, which was completed by further presentations such as "The history, origin of Korean division, proposals for reunification. Presenter: Mme Geller from the USA. Italian Senator Caramer made a presentation entitled " Violation of human rights in South-Korea". The head of the French delegation, Senator Aubrey made a contribution to the subject in the fields of "International inter-relations, danger of war, the withdrawal of USA troops and nuclear armament". The head of the PDRK delegation presented to the participants of the conference the official position of his government concerning the matter of the peaceful reunification of Korea.

These presentations were followed by around thirty contributions. Almost all sounded sharply anti-imperialistic, the sharpest being Tachiki's contribution on behalf of the Japanese Communist Party. The speakers criticized the United States, Japanese imperialism and the reactionary South-Korean regime. Several persons pointed to the danger that the Americans

kept nuclear weapons in South-Korea. They also indicated that the reactionary system of Japan helped the USA in her plan to intervene in the Asian countries, just like she had done in Vietnam. They expressed their solidarity with the Korean people and assured the PDRK government of their support in its efforts to unify Korea in a peaceful and independent way. The Arab speakers, e.g. a member of the Sahara Solidarity Committee EC, the representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization, of the Belgian Arab Workers Organization and of the illegal Popular Movement of Morocco linked their fight against imperialism with the problems of the fight for the reunification of Korea. Some African and Asian speakers emphasized the resolutions passed at the Colombo conference of non-aligned countries concerning the question of Korea. A member of the Yugoslavian Communist Alliance CC underlined that, despite the ideological differences, all progressive forces in South Korea should be involved in the movement of the peaceful unification of the country, reunification should take place independently of any foreign influence. Yugoslavia supports the initiatives of the PDRK government. The PDRK does not belong to any military block, she follows the road of independent development. Non-aligned countries pay great attention to her development.

The representatives of several socialist parties assured the PDRK government of their active support /e.g. Swiss, Somali, Japanese/.

After two days of debate, the participants of the conference passed a resolution prepared by the drafting committee. The introduction to the resolution indicates that the conference wants to mobilize the general public of the world, especially the public of the Western-European countries and the North-American public, who are not well-informed about the Korean question; the conference wants to call attention to the tragic situation of the nation divided against its will and to the dangers resulting from the division and threatening peace.

The approved resolution demands, among others:

1./ The evacuation of all foreign troops, especially American troops, from South Korea, which carry out their activities under the protection of the UN, violating the cease-fire agreement of

1953 and the declaration of 4 July 1972 of the South-Korean and North-Korean committees concerning the reunification of Korea, which provides for the peaceful and independent reunification of Korea freely from the intervention of any foreign forces;

2./ The exchange of the cease-fire agreement for a peace treaty between the USA and the PDRK;

3./ The dissolution of the UN military headquarters in Korea;

4./ It draws attention to the danger of stationing American nuclear forces in South Korea and demands their withdrawal without delay;

5./ It considers deeply distressing the increasing co-operation of some countries with the Seoul regime in the military and nuclear fields, which enables the regime to increase its armament capacity and to create its nuclear military potential, therefore it calls on every state to stop providing patents, technical and financial help for the Seoul regime in the building of war factories;

6./ It draws the attention of the Japanese government to the fact that Korea's security is essential for Japan's security as well, and that their policy justifies neo-colonist practice in South Korea, thus contributing to the division;

7./ It protests against the American military bases on the territory of Japan, which serve as drill-ground for armed actions against the PDRK;

8./ It reveals the endeavours of the governments of the USA, Japan and Pak Yung Hee to create two Koreas with the aim of perpetuating the division of the Korean nation.

The resolution is concerned with the violation of human rights by the South-Korean regime and in this relation:

- 1./ It calls all governments of the world, especially those of the Western countries that maintain diplomatic relations with the South-Korean government and provide it with economic and financial help to exercise pressure on this government in order to put an end to the oppression of Korean democrats and patriots;
- 2./ It supports the patriotic fight of South-Koreans for the restoration of democratic liberties.
- 3./ It condemns the activity of the multinational firms of the USA, Japan and the Common Market in South Korea;
- 4./ It condemns the USA-Japanese-South-Korean trilateral agreement and warns: after the partial evacuation of USA troops from South Korea, the possible penetration of Japanese troops should be prevented.

The resolution calls on the governments and all progressive forces to support the UN resolution and the resolution passed at the Colombo conference of non-aligned countries concerning the reunification of Korea.

It supports the four-point proposal of the parties and mass organizations of the PDRK submitted on 25 January 1977 concerning the reunification of the country.

The participants of the conference decided to deliver the resolution to the UN Secretary-General and the heads of state of all countries.

A permanent communication office will be set up in order to co-ordinate the international actions related to the reunification of Korea, with Brussels headquarters for the time being. The communication office will consist of the representatives of the following states: Japan, USA, Belgium, Cuba, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Guinea, the Republic of Malgas, the South-Yemen Republic and Benin.

Evaluation:

Copyright 1999-2009 Cold War History Research Center Budapest. All rights reserved. If cited, quoted, translated, or reproduced, acknowledgement of any document's origin must be made as follows: „Cold War History Research Center Budapest, <http://www.coldwar.hu>, document obtained by Balázs Szalontai, Ph.D. from the Hungarian National Archives: MOL, XIX-J-1-j-Korea-2.00673/2-1977; translated by Zsófia Zelnik; with the support of the Cold War International History Project, Washington D.C.“

- The goals of the conference set up for the "peaceful and independent reunification of Korea" are unequivocal: to mobilize the general public of the world, but mainly that of the capitalist countries in the interests of Korean reunification. The number of the participating countries and delegations, their political make-up, the activity of the representatives of the non-aligned countries were all remarkable. The institutionalisation of the political and propaganda activity concerning the reunification, especially as they also managed to win the support of influential communist and social-democratic parties, could be regarded as a success for the PDRK. The representatives of the South-Korean opposition forces, who were not invited by the organizers, did not participate at the conference.
- The conference was characterized by a positive anti-imperialistic tone in its approach to the Korean problem.
At the same time, the emphasis on an independent - of the great powers - reunification effort, the neglect of the official representatives of the Soviet Union and the PRC at the conference brought to the surface the nationalist character of the reunification concepts of the PDRK as well. Without the active participation of the Soviet Union and the PRC, the reunification of Korea becomes illusionary. At the conference no speaker mentioned the help provided for the PDRK by the socialist countries during the Korean War of 1950-53.
- At the conference no mention was made of the international easing as a factor that could contribute to the peaceful reunification of Korea. The over-emphasis on the danger of the American nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea was rather meant to justify the possibility of a nuclear world war. Because of the rather mixed composition of the participating delegates according to their nationality, party affiliation and ideology, this political approach may be understood; in the case of some African and Asian delegates one could feel the Chinese influence.
- It seems probable that in the coming months and years, at the conferences of international organizations, in international diplomatic life, the question of Korean reunification will come more to the foreground than earlier. Especially the governments, parties, social

organs of the non-aligned countries are expected to manifest intensified activity and solidarity.

The activity manifested at the present conference by some socialist parties suggests that the Korean problem has become an important issue in the political activity of the Socialist International.

- At the conference, apart from the making of the official declaration and the distribution of earlier government proposals concerning reunification, the PDRK delegation did not distribute any propaganda materials about the internal situation, social, economic and cultural achievements of the PDRK at the session. In all probability, the competent organs of the PDRK directed the work of the conference from the background.
- The Belgian press did not show much interest in the conference. A short report on the subject was published in the Drapeau Rouge and the Cité, the paper of the Christian-democratic left, and the Le Soir.

The study and analysis of the documents obtained at the conference may render our information complete concerning our concepts of the peaceful reunification of Korea. We would like to submit these documents enclosed in the report.

József Vince
Ambassador