

November 7, 1967

Statement by U Thant in First Committee of the UN General Assembly

Citation:

"Statement by U Thant in First Committee of the UN General Assembly", November 7, 1967, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0002-01, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117123>

Summary:

Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs Aleksei E. Nesterenko addresses the First Committee (Political and Security) of the General Assembly for Secretary-General U Thant. The statement concerns the United Nations Command in Korea from 7 July 1950 to 7 June 1963 and overviews the unified command under the United States, assistance of Member States, correspondences with the Security Council, and the detention of two United Nations Command officers.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

C.V.

Action taken

I understand that S.G. ^{now} has passed on to you the draft statement on the Unified Command in Korea which Mr. Nestrenko had sent up.

We are under great pressure in the Committee concerning this statement and I have had several enquiries concerning this. Will a statement be made and, if so, when? The debate is expected to conclude tomorrow morning and therefore it is essential that the statement be made, at the latest, first thing tomorrow morning. S.G. is not making the statement I take it that he will ask Mr. Nestrenko to read the statement on his

IONS

nation
(.

IN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/854
GA/RS/1391
7 November 1967

GENERAL U THANT
MEMBER

the Secretary-General, U Thant,
) of the General Assembly,
, Under-Secretary for Political

y the distinguished representa-
ting of the First Committee con-
I have been instructed by the
gent:

at its 476th meeting, the
ided that all Members providing
to the Security Council resolu-
and other assistance available
It requested the United States
authorized the unified command
ag in the course of operations
the flags of the various nations

participating. It further requested that the United States provide the Security Council with reports as appropriate on the course of action taken under the unified command.

"On 25 July 1950, at the 477th meeting of the Security Council, the representative of the United States informed the Council of an order dated 24 July to the effect that, in response to the Council resolution of 7 July, the President of the United States had designated General MacArthur Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces assisting the Republic of Korea and that, pursuant thereto, there had been established on 24 July the United Nations Command.

(more)

behalf.

I shall be grateful
if you will take the foregoing
into account and do the
needful - Thank.

Parsons -

Mr. C. J. Parsons

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

(FOR USE OF INFORMATION MEDIA -- NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/854
GA/RS/1391
7 November 1967

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT
IN FIRST COMMITTEE ON 7 NOVEMBER

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, in the First Committee (Political and Security) of the General Assembly, which was read today by Aleksei E. Nesterenko, Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs:

"In connexion with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Poland and Hungary at the 1516th meeting of the First Committee concerning the United Nations Command in Korea, I have been instructed by the Secretary-General to make the following statement:

"By a resolution adopted on 7 July 1950, at its 476th meeting, the Security Council, among other things, recommended that all Members providing military forces and other assistance pursuant to the Security Council resolutions of 25 and 27 June 1950, make such forces and other assistance available to a unified command under the United States. It requested the United States to designate the commander of such forces and authorized the unified command at its discretion to use the United Nations flag in the course of operations against North Korean forces concurrently with the flags of the various nations participating. It further requested that the United States provide the Security Council with reports as appropriate on the course of action taken under the unified command.

"On 25 July 1950, at the 477th meeting of the Security Council, the representative of the United States informed the Council of an order dated 24 July to the effect that, in response to the Council resolution of 7 July, the President of the United States had designated General MacArthur Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces assisting the Republic of Korea and that, pursuant thereto, there had been established on 24 July the United Nations Command.

(more)

- 2 -

Press Release SG/SB
GA/PS/
7 November 1967

"Subsequently combatant units were provided by the following sixteen Member States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, five nations, Denmark, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden, supplied medical units. The Republic of Korea placed all its military forces under the Unified Command on 15 July 1950. Following the signing of the Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953, the contingents of nearly all the contributing countries were progressively either withdrawn or reduced. Most of the contributing countries which are still represented maintain in Korea only military liaison officers attached to the United Nations Command.

"During the course of the hostilities, the United States regularly submitted reports on the course of action in the area to the Security Council and, on occasion, to the General Assembly. The United States continued to submit these reports following the removal of the item 'Complaint of Aggression upon the Republic of Korea' from the list of matters of which the Council was seized, by a decision adopted unanimously on 31 January 1951 at the 551st meeting.

"In a note dated 3 December 1953 (S/3148), the representative of the United States transmitted the Seventy-Fifth Report of the United Nations Command in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950 (S/1588). The report states, among other things, that since the beginning of the United Nations collective action in Korea, the United Nations Command had submitted bi-weekly reports on its activities to the United Nations. In addition, special supplementary reports had been submitted on appropriate occasions. In general, the substance of the bi-weekly command reports had been concerned with the conduct of the military operations in Korea. The communication concluded that in the light of the armistice in Korea which had brought about a reduction in the activities of the United Nations Command, there did not appear to be the same need for making bi-weekly reports. However, the Command would continue to fulfil its obligations under the Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950 by rendering reports from time to time as appropriate on the activities undertaken in implementation of the Armistice Agreement.

(more)

- 3 -

Press Release SG/SM/854
CA/FS/1591
7 November 1967

"In addition to the report from the United Nations Command transmitted to the President of the Security Council in a United States letter dated 2 November 1967 (S/8217), it would appear that the last report from the United Nations Command addressed to the Security Council by the representative of the United States was dated 11 March 1954 (S/3185). This transmitted the Seventy-sixth Report of the United Nations Command and covered the period 16-31 August 1953, one month after the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement.

"The last report brought to the General Assembly was a note verbale dated 29 December 1963 from the Permanent Representative of the United States transmitting a special report of the Unified Command (A/5641) concerning the detention in North Korea of two officers of the United Nations Command.

"Meanwhile the United States kept the Security Council informed of the successive appointment of the Commanding Generals of the United Nations Command. The last such communication was dated 7 June 1963 (S/5327)."

* *** *