

October 23, 1956

**Speech by Young Kee Kim at the Y's Men's Club, on
October 23, 1956, on the occasion of United
Nation's Day, Manila, Philippines**

Citation:

"Speech by Young Kee Kim at the Y's Men's Club, on October 23, 1956, on the occasion of United Nation's Day, Manila, Philippines", October 23, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-035, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123174>

Summary:

Young Kee Kim outlines Korea's historical relationship with the United Nations and stresses Korea's right to attain membership of UN.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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Text of
Speech Delivered by Korean Minister Young Kee KIM
at the Y's Men's Club, on October 23, 1956
on the occasion of United Nation's
Day, Manila, Philippines

Mr. President, members of the Y's Men's Club, distinguished guests, and gentlemen:

It is a signal honor for me to be invited to address you today. United Nations Day is not only celebrated by people of your country but by all people throughout the world where freedom is guarded like a treasure. Today, I feel I have a great responsibility to acquaint you of what the United Nations stands for, and how my country is affected by it.

The Republic of Korea is a living, vigorous demonstration of the high ideals and principles of the United Nations. In Korea, the armed forces of 16 United Nations members fought a bitter and savage war to uphold the U.N. ideals against the brutal aggression of the Chinese Communists and the north Korean puppets.

In Korea, the United Nations flag was raised for the first time on earth in battle against open, unjustified aggression. For the first time in history, the United Nations flag was flown on the high seas by United Nations vessels consigned to Korea for reconstruction purposes. More than 50 United Nations members contributed or offered assistance in money or in kind to assist in reconstructing the appalling war damage in my country. Doctors, Nurses, Engineers, Lawyers, educators, administrators and technicians from many member countries have worked or are working to assist my people. We thank again the allied nations for their generous assistance in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Korea through their most important agency, the UNKRA.

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But for purposes of note, may I say that we Koreans have been disappointed because our friends in the United Nations did not fight as hard for our admission to the U.N. as Russia fought for Outer Mongolia and its other satellite puppets. When we asked that this be done, our friends replied that Korea is divided, as is Germany and Vietnam, and must wait for admission until--sometime and somehow--Korea is reunited. As a matter of fact, Korea is vastly different from Germany and Vietnam.

The Republic of Korea was established in 1948 with the active aid and encouragement of the U.N. Our elections have been supervised by the United Nations. Our government has been voted by the U.N. to be (Quote) "the only legal government in Korea". (Unquote).

The north Korean regime and the Red Chinese invaders have been branded by the U.N. as aggressors for their attack against us. There is no other nation on earth that has so intimate and close a relation with the U.N. as does the Republic of Korea. Yet we are bound by U.N. policies on one hand, and are denied the privileges of membership on the other. This too, is in my judgment, a sobering illustration of the degree to which the free world permits itself to deviate from the clear path of morality and principle.

The functions of the United Nations is not only to serve as referee or to mediate in conflicts of nations but also to preserve peace and understanding among nations. Also, the activities of the United Nations extend to the political, social, economic and cultural life of the member nations specially so, that as world body it is much closer to making this world run harmoniously and smoothly than any other group of treaties and organizations combined, including its predecessor, the League of Nations from whose experiences the United Nations has made note of and corrected past mistakes. But just as in any organization that has been created for a purpose, the success

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of the United Nations rests upon the determination of all its members to achieve what it has started to achieve, and also, much rest in the faith of the members and their sincerity to make this, our world, a fitter place to live in.

There is a greater task that lies ahead for, as always, new barriers crop up in world situations which are called for as time evolves but then this is the challenge that shall prove whether the United Nations is equal to it or not. But as long as men will act as gentlemen and will gallantly accede to put their conflicts before a conference table of responsible and unbiased judges who will weigh the merit of demands of each side, war can be prevented.

At this stage, may I point to you the fact that never in history has a single nation shouldered so much responsibility for freedom as the United States. Working through the United Nations as well as system of alliance throughout the world, it has taken unto itself the duty of resisting a cruel and merciless Communism. In essence, therefore, America is the hope of all humanity, including the poor ones now behind the Iron Curtain.

The United Nations is not in any sense a government. Its delegates can not meet and make policies or plan actions. They can only represent the views - often the decisive views - of their home governments. This is why the U.N. proved unequal to the task of waging war in Korea to a victorious conclusion even after it did reach the bold decision to enter that war.

Today, the chief point that I wish to make is that Asia is of importance not alone for and to itself, but for and to the security of freedom in the entire world. Russia has long understood that if it can gain control of Asia it will be well on its way to mastery of the entire globe. This is what Lenin meant when he said that the road to Paris lies through Peiping.

My country has been visited by sadness. It has had devastation from a tremendous war. It has seen armies marching

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up and down our little peninsula four times. It has seen death rain from the skies. It has seen the works of men and women go up in smoke. Yet we are not without hope because we have the pledged faith of the United States of America and other freedom-loving nations. We are not without hope for another reason because now we have one of the strongest anti-Communist armies lined up with that of the free world.

In response to the call of the United Nations Organization, your government sent to my country a contingent of Philippine Battalion Combat Teams to fight side by side with the armed forces of the United Nations. Your boys made heroic sacrifices for the cause of freedom not only of Korea but also for the freedom and common decency of the world. The Filipino boys earned the admiration and respect of the Korean people and their fighting comrades of the allied nations. Some of the Filipino soldiers fell in love with Korean girls and when they returned to their homeland, they brought their war brides with them to make their happy family life here in the Philippines. We are eternally thankful to the government and people of the Philippines for their military and moral support given to the Koreans in their time of need.

Most people, Koreans and foreigners alike - realize the critical danger of our present situation. We remember too well the bitter frustrating days of 1950 when our pitifully small, inadequate armed forces were nearly overwhelmed by the enemy. We dare not forget the lesson we learned in those bitter experiences. Greatly simplified: the lesson is this - the Communists will attack again and the early phases of the conflict will probably be decisive. During this initial phase of the battle, it will be the armed force of the Republic of Korea that must withstand the assault until our allies can muster sufficient strength to convert our strong defenses into a decisive victory. This is our military mission; and for that I will quote the words of no less than Admiral Radford: "Korea has now the third largest defensive army of the world." (Unquote).

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One of the cardinal principles of the United Nations Organization ~~is to~~ preserve peace and freedom for all mankind. The United Nations has a commendable history as an independent entity to exercise the principle of peace and security by lending its moral sanction and its armed forces to the battlefield of Korea.

Korea is the first area in the world where the United Nations has met the challenge of Communist aggressiveness head-on in a fighting war. And it remains the major unsolved problem of international relations in the world today. The truce that was signed in Korea is just that - an uneasy truce - not a peace. The problem has been postponed for a while, but not solved. As the Communist truce violations indicate, it is the kind of problem that can not be solved by postponement or appeasement. Rather it is a dangerous sore that threatens to poison the whole organism of the world community.

Today, at the United Nations Headquarters you can see two memorable plaques. The first is dedicated in memory of the United Nations observers and members of the Secretariat who lost their lives while serving the United Nations on its missions of observations, mediation and conciliation. The second is in remembrance of the men of the Armed Forces of the member states who died in Korea in the service of the U.N.

To prove my point, I will give a brief comparison between the now defunct League of Nations and the United Nations. When Japan occupied Manchuria at one stroke on Sept. 18, 1931, the League of Nations simply looked away as it was not in a physical way provided to stop aggression. When Ethiopia was invaded by Mussolini, it again looked away for the same reason. His majesty, Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia, appealed to the League of Nations in person, but his eloquent words fell on deaf ears. When the Soviet Union invaded Fin-

land on Nov. 30, 1939, the League of Nations expelled the habitual aggressor on Dec. 14 of that same year. Then later the League of Nations finally disintegrated and died because of failure to meet the repeated challenge of aggressors.

When the Communists launched an all out attack upon the Republic of Korea in 1950, the United Nations did not look away like its fallen prototype, the League of Nations, but adopted a prompt resolution calling upon its member nations to militarily contribute to the action of collective security in Korea which was immediately responded to by the United States and 15 other United Nations member nations, one after another. It was a landmark never before reached by the League of Nations on the path of human progress toward collective security and progress.

Free nations, including 20 Republics of Central and South America already are backing a strong campaign for the admission of Korea to the United Nations at the session opening next November. It appears that this year's effort will transcend those of the past, and the United States has pledged its full moral support and leadership. Korea counts full support from your country in Korea's bid for admission to the U.N. membership.

Korea's admission unquestionably will be voted overwhelmingly in the General Assembly, but it will be subjected to a Security Council veto by the Soviet Union. Even so, the importance of the campaign -of getting the votes into the record - cannot be overestimated. The reason lies not so much in Korea's right to membership as in the dramatization of the issues involved in the forthcoming battle to keep Red China out of the U.N.

The Communist and Neutralist nations are intent upon making a vigorous effort to seat Peiping, and some of the free world powers are already wavering. If a veto were necessary to keep Red China out, that would be a tragedy. The Red Chinese should be barred by an overwhelming majority, and if this is not the case, the U.N. will have ceased to be a strong moral force for world peace, order, and justice.

If Red China were to shoot its way to the U.N., everything for which the international organization stands would become an empty fraud and a laughing stock.

By contrast with Red China's international behavior, the Korean bid for admission will be that of a state which has never engaged in aggressive warfare - in more than 4000 years of recorded history - and of a country whose independence is still protected and guaranteed by the U.N. itself. The United Nations is in part responsible for the establishment of the present democratic government of my country.

Korea already has membership in such U.N. organizations as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, Food and Agricultural Organization and many other important U.N. Organizations.

But as President Eisenhower pointed out, the Republic of Korea has been blackballed by Soviet Russia because the Republic is anti-Communist. Because Korea resisted Communist aggression, because 16 United Nations members assisted Korea in repelling aggression - these are the reasons why my country is being kept outside the United Nations by the veto power of a single Communist state - Soviet Russia. This veto negates the will of the great majority of the United Nations members. The power that exercises this veto is the same power that instigated the aggression in Korea, which keeps my country divided, and which is presently instigating subversion and plotting aggression against every non-Communist country on earth.

The "package deal" is a Communist plot to confuse the legal status of Korea with that of the Communist regimes founded by the Soviet Union. Korea's case is different from that of the Communist regimes because my country was recognized by the United Nations as (Quote) "the only lawful government in Korea". (Unquote). That statement was issued after the Soviet Union refused to unify Korea as it had promised to do.

The Reds will offer astounding concessions to the Free world in Asia. They will propose the unification of Korea for

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example, upon terms which no reasonable government could refuse - provided that there were any assurance that the Communists could fulfill their promise. But as Shakespeare said, "There's the rub". For the Communists can and will promise anything to anyone at anytime. Why not? The Soviet promises are not worth a centavo and they have absolutely no intention of honoring any future agreements unless as, and when it suits their nefarious purposes for the moment. To the Communists, an international agreement is deliberately negotiated as an effective device for binding the Free World countries - while leaving the utterly immoral Reds absolutely free to do exactly as they please under any circumstances.

According to Mr. Arnold J. Toynbee, regarded as the world's greatest living historian, (Quote) " If the United Nations should collapse, the world will be faced with two alternatives, a world unequally divided into an American and Russian sphere, or atomic annihilation." (Unquote)

It is fitting that today we should also remember the words of Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold (pronounced hamersshield) at the celebration of last year's United Nation's Day (Quote) "An occasion such as this one is a poignant reminder that behind every historic action, national or international, is the individual human being, each giving of his courage and his devotion. Those whom we honor today, were called upon by their Governments to fight, as loyal citizens of their countries, for a common cause...In memory of their sacrifice, we can seek to be worthy in our service to the building of a peace that will endure." (Unquote)

Whether the Republic of Korea, "Stepchild of the United Nations" shall grow into a strong, stable, and healthy nation, is predicated upon the willingness and resourcefulness of the Koreans themselves (and this we are pledged to do) and upon the peoples of the Free World, to meet the totalitarian challenge courageously and to share responsibilities in restoring a shattered populace and economy to a level where a decent and re-

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quited life is possible for everyone.

As a free country we see that there is an advantage in our having membership in the United Nations. As I have stated before, being anti-Communist, we are kept out of the U.N. by Soviet Russia through the use of her veto power in the Security Council. We then vigorously suggest that action come directly through the U.N. General Assembly - by bypassing the Security Council and the veto power. If an amendment to the Charter is required to override the veto by General Assembly action, the quicker it is passed, the better. It is time to put the matter of Korea's membership directly up to the General Assembly, and in so doing we hope to have every chance for my country to take its rightful place in the family of nations and contribute even in a small measure to the cause of freedom and peace for which the United Nations Organization was founded.

I thank you.

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