

May 13, 1974

Letter from Government of North Korea

Citation:

"Letter from Government of North Korea", May 13, 1974, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, Ford Vice Presidential Papers, Office of Assistant for Defense and International Affairs, Files 1973-1974, John O. Marsh, Box 61, North Korea. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/114199>

Summary:

Letter from The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the U.S. Senate formally proposing that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

Korean

Contents:

Original Scan
Transcript - Korean



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: SPOFFORD CANFIELD *SC*

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT
OF NORTH KOREA

The enclosed communication from Hwang Jang Yop, Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, was hand-delivered to my office on Friday, May 10.

As you know, the Vice President, as President of the Senate, receives all communications to the Senate. Long standing practice dictates that a letter of the nature of the North Korean's be referred informally to the Foreign Relations Committee. In most instances a copy is sent to the Majority and Minority Leader; this has been done.

No action is required by the Vice President. I did want you, however, to be aware of the letter.

Enclosure

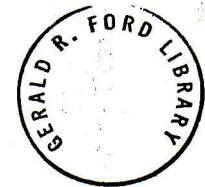
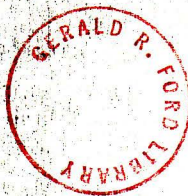


(Translation)

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974

I have the honour to send to Your Excellency and, through Your Excellency, to your Senate the "Letter to the Congress of the United States of America" adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Please accept the assurances of my high consideration.



Hwang Jang Yop
Chairman
Supreme People's Assembly
Democratic People's Republic
of Korea

His Excellency Mr. Gerald R. Ford .
President of the Senate
United States of America
W a s h i n g t o n

(Translation)

**THE LETTER
TO
THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

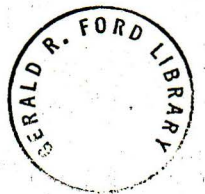
The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, having discussed the question of creating a prerequisite to the removal of tension in Korea and the acceleration of the country's independent and peaceful reunification, sends this letter to both the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

All the Korean people and the peace-loving people the world over were greatly stirred up by the bright prospects for the preservation of peace in Korea and the settlement of her reunification problem, when the North-South Joint Statement was made public in July 1972.

But today, after the lapse of almost two years since then, developments in Korea have been quite the opposite to what the people had expected.

Tension seemed to be relaxed temporarily, but it has been aggravated again. Only military confrontation and war danger have daily been increasing, instead of prospects for peaceful reunification.

The prevailing situation naturally causes apprehensions of the people of the world and urgently demands that we adopt proper measures for meeting the situation.



The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea still firmly believes that for the prevention of a war danger and removal of tension in Korea and the promotion of her peaceful reunification, it is necessary, first of all, to eliminate the military confrontation between the north and the south.

In fact, under the condition of huge armed forces standing opposed to each other as it is today, it is impossible to successfully solve any problems, big and small, which are related to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

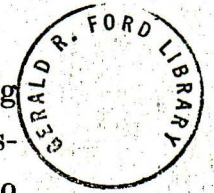
Ever since the armistice in Korea the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward time and again various reasonable proposals such as proposals for the reduction of armaments and the conclusion of a peace agreement, as a step for converting the armistice into a durable peace.

Even after the start of the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea, we presented the elimination of the north-south military confrontation as a question to be settled before everything else.

If any of our peaceful proposals had been put into practice, a durable peace would have been ensured in Korea and tension as we see today would have not been aggravated again.

The south Korean authorities, however, have not responded to our proposals for the stoppage of arms reinforcement and arms race, the reduction of the armies and armaments, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the conclusion of a peace agreement, but have pushed forward war preparations.

Backed by the United States, the south Korean authorities have only implored the prolonged presence of the U.S. troops



in south Korea and deliberately aggravated the relations between the north and the south, incessantly clamouring about the fictitious "threat of southward aggression" in an attempt to oppose the country's reunification and repress the south Korean people.

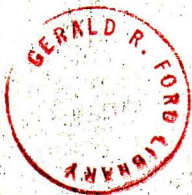
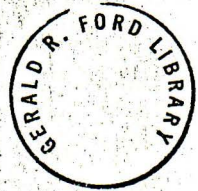
With a view to cloaking such acts of theirs, recently the south Korean authorities came out with what they call a "non-aggression pact."

But it is well known to the world that it is not the south Korean authorities but the U.S. Commander who holds the prerogative of supreme command of the army in south Korea today. The south Korean authorities who do not have the prerogative of supreme command of the army propose to conclude a "non-aggression pact" while leaving the U.S. troops to stay on in south Korea. This is an empty talk without any guarantee of peace and accordingly, is not worth discussing at all.

It is none other than the United States that has encouraged the south Korean authorities in all their acts to turn down our independent and peace-loving proposals unconditionally.

Even after the dialogue started between the north and south of Korea, the United States has increased its military aid and armed support to south Korea, saying that the dialogue should be backed up by the armed forces, and has frequently committed provocations against the northern half of the Republic, staged war exercises and perpetrated espionage acts by sending high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes and thus has intensified tension ceaselessly.

We, therefore, consider that the responsibility for the failure in Korea's reunification and for the current tension and



danger of war in Korea rests chiefly with the U.S. government authorities.

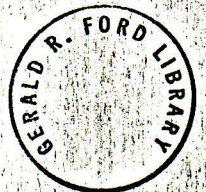
It is becoming increasingly evident that as long as the U.S. troops remain in south Korea it is impossible to remove tension and consolidate peace in Korea and that the south Korean authorities have no intention and ability whatsoever to solve this problem.

The reality calls for concluding a peace agreement directly with the United States which stations its troops in south Korea and holds the prerogative of supreme command of all the forces, in order to create prerequisites for removing tension in Korea and eliminating the external factors obstructing Korea's independent and peaceful reunification and for enabling the Korean people to solve the reunification problem independently by themselves.

The Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from Korea long ago, and not the troops of the "U.N. forces" but the U.S. troops remain there. Under this condition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement, are the virtual parties concerned.

At present the Armistice Agreement itself has become already outdated and does not conform to the reality in many respects. To replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement brooks no further delay.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that a peace agreement to be concluded with the United States of America may include the following points:



Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all the danger of direct armed conflict.

The United States shall be obliged not to instigate the south Korean authorities to the war provocation manoeuvres and fascist repression of the south Korean people and patronize them, not to obstruct the north and south of Korea in reunifying the country independently and peacefully in accordance with the North-South Joint Statement and not to interfere in any form in the internal affairs of Korea.

Secondly, the two sides shall discontinue arms reinforcement and arms race and stop introducing any weapons, combat equipment and war supplies into Korea.

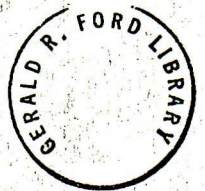
Thirdly, the berets of the "United Nations forces" shall be taken off the foreign troops stationed in south Korea and they all be withdrawn at the earliest possible date along with all their weapons.

Fourthly, Korea shall not be made a military base or operational base of any foreign country after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea formally proposes that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with the above-mentioned points as a premise.

The talks may be held at Panmunjom or in a third country by delegates of a higher level than those to the Military Armistice Commission now functioning-at Panmunjom.

The relations will be improved between the north and



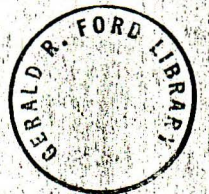
south of Korea and an atmosphere favourable to the independent and peaceful solution of the reunification problem be created, when the question of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement in Korea is settled successfully.

Our new proposal fully accords with the interests of the people of the United States and of world peace as well.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses the expectation that the Congress of the United States of America and the U.S. government authorities will direct serious attention to our new peaceful proposal and make an affirmative response to this.

**The Supreme People's Assembly of
the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea**

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974

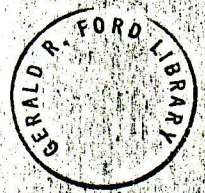


워싱턴

미합중국 상원의장
제랄드 아르. 포드각하

나는 조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의 제 5기 제 3차회의에서 채택된 《미합중국 국회에 보내는 편지》를 각하와 각하를 통하여 귀상원에 보내는 영광을 가지는바입니다.

경의를 표하면서



조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의 의장

황 장 엽

황 장 엽

1974년 3월 25일

평양

미합중국국회에 보내는 편지

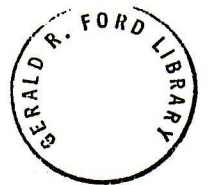
조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의 제5기 제3차 회의는 조선에서 긴장상태를 가시며 조국의 자주적 평화통일을 촉진시키기 위한 전제를 마련할 때 대한 문제를 토의하고 미합중국국회 상, 하 양원에 이 편지를 보낸다.

1972년 7월 남북공동성명이 발표되었을 때 전체 조선인민과 전세계 평화애호인민들은 조선에서의 평화 유지와 통일문제해결의 밝은 전망으로 큰 고무력을 받았었다.

그러나 그때로부터 거의 두해가 지난 오 조선에서 사태발전은 인민들이 기대한것과는 정반대로 되고있다.

긴장상태는 일시 완화되는것같았으나 도로 격화되고있으며 평화통일의 전망대신에 군사적대결 전쟁위험만이 날로 커가고있다.

조성된 정세는 세계인민들의 응당한 우려를 자



내고있으며 사태를 풀기 위한 적절한 조치가 취
해질것을 절박하게 요구하고있다.

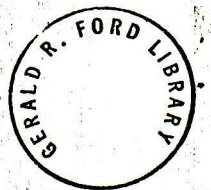
조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의는 조선에서 전
쟁의 위험을 막고 긴장상태를 가시며 평화통일을
촉진시키자면 무엇보다도 남북사이의 군사적대치상태를
해소하는것으로부터 시작하여야 한다고 의연히 굳게
믿고있다.

사실 지금과 같이 방대한 무력이 서로 대
치하여있는 조건에서는 조선의 평화통일과 관련된
크고 작은 어떤 문제도 성과적으로 풀어나갈수 없다.

조선민주주의인민공화국 정부는 조선에서 정전이
이루어진 첫날부터 정전을 공고한 평화에로 전환
시키기 위한 조치로서 군비축소, 평화협정체결과 같
은 여러가지 합리적인 방안들을 거듭 제기하였다.

우리는 조선의 북과 남사이에 대화가 시작된
이후에도 남북사이의 군사적대치상태를 해소하는것을
가장 선차적으로 풀어야 할 문제로 제기하였다.

만일 우리의 평화적발기들이 어느 하나라도 실
현되었더라면, 조선에서 공고한 평화는 보장되었을것



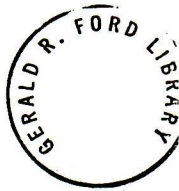
이며 오늘과 같이 긴장상태가 다시 격화되는 일은 없었을 것이다.

그러나 남조선 당국자들은 우리가 무력증강과 군비경쟁을 그만두고 군대와 군비를 줄이며 외국군대를 내보내고 평화협정을 맺자고 하여도 그에 응하지 않고 전쟁준비를 다그쳐왔다.

남조선 당국자들은 오직 미국을 등에 업고 나라의 통일을 반대하며 남조선인민들을 탄압하기 위하여 있지도 않는 《남침위협》소동을 끊임없이 벌여놓으면서 미군의 장기주둔을 간청하며 고의적으로 남북관계를 긴장시켜왔다.

얼마전 남조선 당국자들은 자기들의 이러한 동의를 가리우기 위하여 이른바 《불가침조약》이라는 것을 들고나왔다.

그러나 오늘 남조선에서 군사통수권을 가진 것은 남조선 당국자들이 아니라 미군사령관이 세상이다. 아는 사실이다. 군사통수권을 남조선 당국자들이 남조선에 미국군대를 그냥



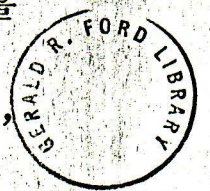
채 《불가침조약》을 맺자고 하는 것은 평화에 대한 아무런 담보도 할수 없는 빈말공부에 지나지 않으며 따라서 논의할 가치조차 없는 것이다.

우리의 자주적이며 평화애호적인 발기들을 덮어 놓고 거부하는 남조선당국자들의 모든 행동을 부추긴 것은 다름아닌 미국이다.

미국은 조선의 북과 남 사이에 대화가 시작된 이후에도 대화의 배경에 무력이 있어야 한다고 하면서 남조선에 대한 군사원조와 무력지원을 강화하고 공화국 북반부를 반대하는 도발행위와 군사훈련, 고속도 고공정찰기에 의한 정탐행위를 빈번히 감행하며 끊임없이 긴장상태를 격화시켜왔다.

그러므로 우리는 조선이 통일되지 못하고 오늘과같은 긴장된 정세와 전쟁위험에 직면하고 있는데 대한 주되는 책임이 미국정부당국에 있다고 인정한다.

남조선에 미국군대가 남아있는 조건에서는 조선에서 긴장상태를 가시고 평화를 공고히 할수 없으며 남조선당국자들은 도대체 이 문제를 해결하려는 의사도 능력도 가지고 있지 않다는 것이 더욱더 명백해지고 있다.



현실은 조선에서 긴장상태를 가시고 조선의 자주적평화통일에 장애로 되는 외부적요인들을 제거하며 조선사람끼리 통일문제를 자주적으로 해결할수 있는 전제를 마련하려면 남조선에 자기의 군대를 주둔시키고 모든 군사통수권을 틀어쥐고있는 미국과 직접 평화협정체결에 관한 문제를 해결할것을 제기하고 있다.

조선에서 중국인민지원군은 이미 오래전에 철거하였으며 《유엔군》측에서 남아있는 군대도 오직 미군뿐인 조건에서 조선민주주의인민공화국과 미국은 조선정전협정의 체결 쌍방으로서 실제적 당사자로 되고있다.

오늘 정전협정은 그 자체가 이미 낡았으며 많은 면에서 현실에 적응하지 못하고있다. 정전협정을 평화협정으로 바꾸는 문제는 더 이상 뒤로 미룰수 없다.

조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의는 미합중국과의 사이에 체결될 평화협정이 다음과 같은 조치들을 예견할수 있을것이라고 인정한다.

첫째, 쌍방은 서로 상대방을 침범하지 않을 것을 서약하고 직접적 무력충돌의 모든 위험성을 제거할 것이다.

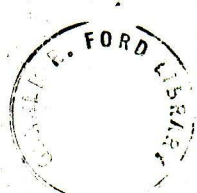
미국은 남조선 당국자들의 전쟁도발책동과 남조선 인민들에 대한 파쑈적탄압행위를 사촉하지 않고 비호하지 않으며 조선의 북과 남이 남북공동성명에 따라 자주적으로, 평화적으로 나라를 통일하는 것을 방해하지 않으며 조선의 내정에 일체 간섭하지 않을 데 대한 의무를 질 것이다.

둘째, 쌍방은 무력증강과 군비경쟁을 그만두며 조선경외로부터의 일체 무기와 작전장비, 군수물자의 반입을 중지할 것이다.

셋째, 남조선에 있는 외국군대는 《유엔군》의 모자를 벗어야 하며 가장 빠른 기간내에 일체 무기를 가지고 모두 철거하도록 할 것이다.

넷째, 남조선에서 모든 외국군대가 철거한후 조선은 그 어떤 외국의 군사기지나 작전기지로도 되지 않을 것이다.

조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의는 이와같은 조치들을 전제로하고 조선민주주의인민공화국과 미합중국간에



평화협정을 체결하기 위한 회담을 진행할 것을
정식으로 제기한다.

회담은 지금 판문점에 있는 군사정전위원회보다
한급 높은 대표들로 구성하며 회담장소로서는
판문점 또는 제3국으로 정할수 있을 것이다.

조선에서 정전협정을 평화협정으로 바꾸는 문제가
성파적으로 해결될때에 조선의 북과 남사이의 관계에도
개변이 일어날 것이며 통일문제를 자주적으로, 평화적으로
해결하는데 유리한 분위기를 조성하게 될 것이다

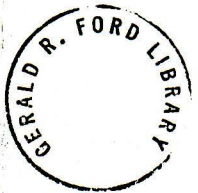
우리의 새로운 발기는 미국인민의 이익과
세계평화의 이익에도 전적으로 맞는 것이다.

조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의는 미합중국과
미국정부당국이 우리의 새로운 평화적발기에
고려를 돌리고 긍정적인 반응을 보이리라는
표명한다.

조선민주주의인민공화국 최고인민회의

1974년 3월 25일

평양



Office of the Vice President
Washington

May 13, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: □ JACK MARSH

FROM: □ SPOFFORD CANFIELD

SUBJECT: □ LETTER FROM GOVERNMENT
□ OF NORTH KOREA

The enclosed communication from Hwang Jang Yop [Hwang Jang-yeop], Chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea, was hand-delivered to my office on Friday, May 10. As you know, the Vice President, as President of the Senate, receives all communications to the Senate. Long standing practice dictates that a letter of the nature of the North Korean's be referred informally to the Foreign Relations Committee. In most instances a copy is sent to the Majority and Minority Leader; this has been done.

No action is required by the Vice President. I did want you, however, to be aware of the letter.

Enclosure

□

(Translation)

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974

I have the honour to send to your Excellency and, through Your Excellency, to your Senate the "Letter to the Congress of the United States of America" adopted at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Please accept the assurances of my high consideration.

□ Hwang Jang Yop
□ Chairman
□ Supreme People's Assembly
□ Democratic People's Republic of Korea

His Excellency Mr. Gerald R. Ford
President of the Senate
United States of America
Washington

□

(Translation)

THE LETTER

TO
THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, having discussed the question of creating a prerequisite to the removal of tension in Korea and the acceleration of the country's independent and peaceful reunification, sends this letter to both the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

All the Korean people and the peace-loving people the world over were greatly stirred up by the bright prospects for the preservation of peace in Korea and the settlement of her reunification problem, when the North-South Joint Statement was made public in July 1972.

But today, after the lapse of almost two years since then, developments in Korea have been quite the opposite to what the people had expected.

Tension seemed to be relaxed temporarily, but it has been aggravated again. Only military confrontation and war danger have daily been increasing, instead of prospects for peaceful reunification.

The prevailing situation naturally causes apprehensions of the people of the world and urgently demands that we adopt proper measures for meeting the situation.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea still firmly believes that for the prevention of a war danger and removal of tension in Korea and the promotion of her peaceful reunification, it is necessary, first of all, to eliminate the military confrontation between the north and the south.

In fact, under the condition of huge armed forces standing opposed to each other as it is today, it is impossible to successfully solve any problems, big and small, which are related to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Ever since the armistice in Korea the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward time and again various reasonable proposals such as proposals for the reduction of armaments and the conclusion of a peace agreement, as a step for converting the armistice into a durable peace.

Even after the start of the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea, we presented the elimination of the north-south military confrontation as a question to be settled before everything else.

If any of our peaceful proposals had been put into practice, a durable peace would have been ensured in Korea and tension as we see today would have not been aggravated again.

The south Korean authorities, however, have not responded to our proposals for the stoppage of arms reinforcement and arms race, the reduction of the armies and armaments, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the conclusion of a peace agreement, but have pushed forward war preparations.

Backed by the United States, the south Korean authorities have only implored the prolonged presence of the U.S. troops in south Korea and deliberately aggravated the relations between the north and the south, incessantly clamouring about the fictitious

"threat of southward aggression" in an attempt to oppose the country's reunification and repress the south Korean people.

With a view to cloaking such acts of theirs; recently the south Korean authorities came out with what they call a "non-aggression pact."

But it is well known to the world that it is not the south Korean authorities but the U.S. Commander who holds the prerogative of supreme command of the army in south Korea today. The south Korean authorities who do not have the prerogative of supreme command of the army propose to con elude a "non-aggression pact" while leaving the U.S. troops to stay on in south Korea. This is an empty talk without any guarantee of peace and accordingly, is not worth discussing at all.

It is none other than the United States that has encouraged the south Korean authorities in all their acts to turn down our independent and peace-loving proposals unconditionally.

Even after the dialogue started between the north and south of Korea, the United States has increased its military aid and armed support to south Korea, saying that the dialogue should be backed up by the armed forces, and has frequently committed provocations against the northern half of the Republic, staged war exercises and perpetrated espionage acts by sending high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes and thus has intensified tension ceaselessly.

We, therefore, consider that the responsibility for the failure in Korea's reunification and for the current tension and danger of war in Korea rests chiefly with the U.S. government authorities.

It is becoming increasingly evident that as long as the U.S. troops remain in south Korea it is impossible to remove tension and consolidate peace in Korea and that the south Korean authorities have no intention and ability whatsoever to solve this problem.

The reality calls for concluding a peace agreement directly with the United States which stations its troops in south Korea and holds the prerogative of supreme command of all the forces, in order to create prerequisites for removing tension in Korea and eliminating the external factors obstructing Korea's independent and peaceful reunification and for enabling the Korean people to solve the reunification problem independently by themselves.

The Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from Korea long ago, and not the troops of the "U.N. forces" but the U.S. troops remain there. Under this condition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement and the virtual parties concerned.

At present the Armistice Agreement itself has become already outdated and does not conform to the reality in many respects. To replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement brooks no further delay.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that a peace agreement to be concluded with the United States of America may include the following points:

Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all the danger of direct armed conflict.

The United States shall be obliged not to instigate the south Korean authorities to the war provocation manoeuvres and fascist repression of the south Korean people and patronize them, not to obstruct the north and south of Korea in reunifying the country independently and peacefully in accordance with the North-South Joint Statement and not to interfere in any form in the internal affairs of Korea.

Secondly, the two sides shall discontinue arms reinforcement and arms race and stop introducing any weapons, combat equipment and war supplies into Korea.

Thirdly, the berets of the "United Nations forces" shall be taken off the foreign troops stationed in south Korea and they all be withdrawn at the earliest possible date along with all their weapons.

Fourthly, Korea shall not be made a military base or operational base of any foreign country after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea formally proposes that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with the above-mentioned points as a premise.

The talks may be held at Panmunjom [Panmunjeom] or in a third country by delegates of a higher level than those to the Military Armistice Commission now functioning at Panmunjom.

The relations will be improved between the north and south of Korea and an atmosphere favourable to the independent and peaceful solution of the reunification problem be created when the question of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement in Korea is settled successfully.

Our new proposal fully accords with the interests of the people of the United States and of world peace as well.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses the expectation that the Congress of the United States of America and the U.S. government authorities will direct serious attention to our new peaceful proposal and make an affirmative response to this.

□The Supreme People's Assembly of
□the Democratic People's Republic of
□Korea

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974