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Press Release, "UNCURK Annual Report Recommends Dissolution of Commission"

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Summary:

Advance press release on UNCURK annual report on recommendation of dissolution of commission.

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Press Release KOR/661
6 September 1973

UNCURK ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDS DISSOLUTION OF COMMISSION

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2668 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) on 30 August 1973 signed and submitted its annual report* to the Secretary-General and to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The first sub-chapters of the report deal, respectively, with: (1) Objectives of the United Nations in Korea and terms of reference and activities of the Commission; (2) The question of unification; (3) Red Cross talks; (4) Review of security problems in the Korean peninsula; and (5) Political developments in the Republic of Korea.

The Commission ends its report with Chapter VII on "Concluding Observations", the text of which comprises the following:

"Since its inception, UNCURK has faithfully worked to carry out the mandate given it by the United Nations General Assembly. It has alertly and to the best of its ability observed the state of affairs on the Korean Peninsula and has kept the United Nations regularly and fully informed. While the peaceful unification of Korea has not yet proved possible despite the best efforts of the United Nations, UNCURK has taken every opportunity to cultivate an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation between north and south Korea as an essential precondition of peaceful unification.

"The tasks of rehabilitating the Korean economy were of great magnitude and UNCURK made an outstanding contribution as far as circumstances allowed it in carrying out its responsibilities for relief and rehabilitation.

"When on 4 July 1972 the Republic of Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a joint communiqué agreeing in principle to the peaceful and independent unification of Korea and providing for the setting up of a South-North Co-ordinating Committee for this purpose and a 'hot line' connexion between Seoul and Pyongyang, UNCURK warmly welcomed this development as notable evidence of diminished tension and as a hopeful augury for the establishment of an effective negotiating relationship between the two Governments.

* The report will be available by the end of the month.

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"In recording these views in its 1972 Report, UNCURK remarked that it was premature to draw a firm conclusion until implementation had gone further beyond a statement of intention than was then the case. The Co-ordinating Committee convened for its first formal meeting on 30 November 1972 and has to date held two other such meetings as well as working group meetings. Although, at the moment of signing of this report, disagreement has arisen between the Co-Chairmen of this Committee, both sides have reiterated their willingness to continue the dialogue.

"The importance of the Korean problem demands that all apposite and acceptable means of promoting the peaceful unification of Korea should be made use of, and UNCURK believes that the United Nations in particular should not cease to assess with imagination and flexibility what its own role should be.

"Giving due weight to these considerations and to developments during the past year, the members of UNCURK express their considered judgement that the presence in Korea of UNCURK is no longer required and they accordingly recommend that UNCURK should be dissolved.

"The members of UNCURK make this recommendation without prejudice to the accepted authority and competence of the United Nations within the terms of the Charter to take whatever action it may deem necessary, in the interest of preserving peace and security, to maintain political oversight of the situation in the Korean peninsula."

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