

HEADQUARTERS
(MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (Korea)
APO 72

28 July 1953

SUBJECT: First Meeting of the Military Armistice Commission, Held at Panmunjom, Korea, 28 July 1953.

Personnel Present:

UNITED NATIONS COMMAND:-MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION

MGEN B M BRYAN, USA
MGEN T KITTIKHACHORN, Thailand Army
MGEN G E R BASTION, UKA
BGEN E H UNDERHILL, USAF
RADM W K MENDENHALL, USN

COMMUNISTS:

MGEN LEE SANG JO, NKA
MGEN CHOE YONG HAN, NKA
MGEN PAK LI YONG, NKA
GEN TING KUO YU, CCF
GEN TSAI CHENG WEN, CCF

Meeting reconvened at 1100 hours.

UNITED NATIONS: I am Major General Bryan. I have been designated by General Clark as the Senior Member of the United Nations Command Component of the Military Armistice Commission. I now hand you my credentials for inspection. (Hands over credentials for examination.)

I will now identify the other members of the United Nations Command Component. On my right is Major General Thanom. On my left is Major General Bastion whose credentials I pass to you. And on my right at the far end of the table is Brigadier General Underhill. And on my left at the far end of the table is Rear Admiral Mendenhall whose credentials I pass to you. (Hands over credentials for examination.)

Do you have the credentials of your members?

NORTH KOREA: I am instructed by Marshal Kim Il Sung, Supreme Commander Korean People's Army, and General Peng Teh-huai, Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, to inform you that I am appointed as the Senior Member of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers of the Military Armistice Commission. These are my credentials. (Hands over credentials for examination.)

At the same time I notify you that General Tsai Cheng Wen, General Ting Kuo Yu, Chinese People's Volunteers, and Major General Pak Li Yong, of the Korean People's Army, Major General Choe Yong Han, of the Korean People's Army, are appointed as members of the Military Armistice Commission. Now I hand you their credentials. (Hands over credentials for examination.)

UNITED NATIONS: Here are the credentials of Captain Coleman, United States Navy, whom the United Nations nominates as Secretary. I pass you the credentials of the Assistant Secretary, Colonel Cofield. (Hands over credentials for examination.)

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NORTH KOREA: Now I inform your side that from our side Colonel Ju Yon, Korean People's Army, is appointed as the Secretary, and Colonel Hsui Ming, Chinese People's Volunteers, as the assistant Secretary. (At this point press and official photographers leave the conference building.)

UNITED NATIONS: I have a statement to make.

With respect to the subject of the Joint Observer Teams, our side submits the following comments on the proposals made by you at the Staff Officers' meeting held on 26 July 1953:

We agree that each team be composed of three (3) field grade officers from each side with required administrative and technical personnel, but we are unable to understand the necessity for such teams having up to thirty (30) persons thereon from each side.

We note, from the map which you submitted to our Staff officers, your proposed division of the Han River Estuary and the Demilitarized Zone into ten (10) areas and that such division conforms generally with that indicated in our plan delivered to your staff officers on 22 July. In the case of several of the boundaries of the areas and certain of the meeting places proposed by you, our two sides are in agreement, but in other instances our choices differ.

We agree that, upon meeting in their respectively assigned area, the members of the separate components of the Joint Observer Teams should exhibit their identification means to the members of the other side.

We note that you propose to mark vehicles of your Joint Observer Teams with red flags. We do not agree. We suggest that both sides mark their vehicles with white flags.

Our side proposes that further study of these problems be made by the two Secretaries in an effort to resolve the differences in our views.

NORTH KOREA: Since the Armistice Agreement has become already effective, the Joint Observer Teams must be immediately dispatched. Now I inform you of the list of the senior members of the Joint Observer Teams of our side as follows:

- Colonel Nao Su H for the first team;
- Colonel Kith Yao Chen for the second team;
- Colonel Ho Shu for the third team;
- Colonel Lee Chung Tao for the fourth team;
- Colonel Su Chu Hwa for the fifth team;
- Colonel Wang Hai Chu for the sixth team;
- Colonel Pai Peng Shun for the seventh team;
- Colonel Yao Shoo Chang for the eighth team;
- Colonel Yao Ching Shin for the ninth team;
- Colonel Kim Kil Hwang for the tenth team.

NORTH KOREA:
(CONT'D)

Further I propose that the Secretaries of both sides arrange for the meeting of the staff officers of both sides and discuss and decide upon concrete measures prior to the departure of the Joint Observer Teams.

UNITED NATIONS:

We agree to the staff officers discussion with regard to the Joint Observer Teams. It would appear that to get these teams into the field quickly it is necessary that we expedite the agreement with regard to the discharge of their duties.

It is noted that no mention was made of our difference of opinion as to the marking for the teams. In the interest of saving time, I propose that the lists of our Joint Observers be transferred between the Secretaries.

NORTH KOREA:

As to the composition of the Joint Observer Teams, both sides are in agreement that three (3) officers of field grade from each side be appointed to compose the teams. The working personnel, technical personnel, interpreters and secretaries required to be deployed by both sides should be determined in accordance with the actual necessities of both sides. If we don't do so it will not be practicable, and it will be in the way of carrying out their duties normally.

On the basis of our consideration of the requirements of our side, our side considers that working personnel and assistant personnel of not more than about thirty (30) should be assigned. As to this question, too, our side agrees that the Secretaries and staff officers of both sides concretely discuss the matter.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side agrees to the discussion at Staff Officers level and suggests the Staff Officers meet at fifteen hundred (1500) hours this date.

NORTH KOREA:

Our side proposes that concerning the question of the division of the designated areas of the Joint Observer Teams, the places in the designated areas for the first meeting on the agreement on provisional markers etc., can all be referred to the staff officers designated by both sides for settlement. The Senior Member of both sides of the ten (10) Joint Observer Teams will meet at a designated time through introduction by the Secretaries of both sides. Arrangements concerning administrative details can be settled by the Teams themselves respectively.

We agree to having the staff officers meeting at 1500 hours.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side will have the necessary staff officers and the Senior Member of the Joint Observer Teams present at 1500 hours at this place.

It having been agreed that a meeting will be held this afternoon, our side would like to introduce another proposal. Our side proposes that the existing arrangements for security guards in this area be continued for the time being.

NORTH KOREA:

The Senior Members of the Observer Teams of our side will meet the Senior Members of the Observer Teams of your side here at 1500 hours today.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side did not agree to have all members meet here. I said, the Senior Member, that is, one man and the necessary staff officers.

NORTH KOREA: Our side considers it necessary that all the Senior Members of the Observer Teams meet together.

UNITED NATIONS: Do I understand correctly that the purpose of the meeting of the ten (10) officers, one from each team, is for the purpose to discuss all of the administrative details of the Joint Observer Teams?

NORTH KOREA: The discussion of the administrative details can be referred to the staff officers meeting. The purpose of today's meeting is for introduction of the Senior Members of the Joint Observer Teams to each other.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side agrees.

NORTH KOREA: Our side agrees to your proposal to continue the present security guards for the time being, until such new measures be taken for the maintenance of order within the conference site area.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side desires to introduce a proposal regarding the United Nations sites for prisoner of war camps for prisoners who are not directly repatriated. Our proposal follows:

Under the provisions of paragraph 1 of the Temporary Agreement supplementary to the Armistice Agreement, the United Nations Command designates the areas between the Military Demarcation Line and the eastern and southern boundaries of the Demilitarized Zone between the Imjin River on the south and the road leading south from Okum-ni on the northeast as the area within which the United Nations Command will turn over the prisoners of war who are not directly repatriated, for the camps to be occupied by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission with its staff and the prisoners of war who do not desire immediate repatriation. The Military Armistice Commission should now specifically authorize unarmed personnel and the necessary equipment of the United Nations to enter the above mentioned area to perform the necessary construction.

NORTH KOREA: In your proposal you said that for the construction work unarmed personnel would enter the Demilitarized Zone, and we would like to know how many there will be of them.

UNITED NATIONS: The total number of unarmed personnel will vary from day to day but will not exceed three thousand (3000).

NORTH KOREA: When will these three thousand (3000) persons your side just mentioned begin their work and how long will their work last?

UNITED NATIONS: Work will begin immediately and will continue until the camp is completed which will be less than sixty (60) days.

NORTH KOREA: We agree to your proposal for stating the construction work for the accommodations of the prisoners of war who are not directly repatriated and for the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission.

UNITED NATIONS: For your information, in the clearing of mine fields it will be necessary to use demolition, that is, high explosives, and possibly flame throwers within that area. You are furnished this information so that you may be fully informed.

NORTH KOREA: We understand that the unarmed personnel of your side will work only in daytime, and upon completion of their work, they will not come in anymore. Is that correct?

UNITED NATIONS: It may be necessary for these unarmed personnel to work at night. That depends upon how quickly the work proceeds. When the camp is finally completed, these unarmed personnel will withdraw and will not enter the Demilitarized Zone.

NORTH KOREA: I have noted your statement.

As to the question of using the explosives and flame throwers, we want to make a study of it first and then we will let you know our views.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side feels that we must remove the minefields and other hazards and the method by which such minefields are removed is a matter for our choice. These are commercial items. That is, the explosives are commercial items and will be used solely to remove minefields incidental to construction. This information was furnished you as a matter of information.

NORTH KOREA: As to the question of whether it is in contradiction to the Armistice Agreement for the unarmed personnel to carry the explosives and flame throwers and enter the Demilitarized Zone or not, we will tell you our views after we have made a study of it.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side does not believe a man is armed when carrying explosives for such a purpose. We expect an early reply in order to start construction and not unduly delay the repatriation of the personnel under consideration.

NORTH KOREA: Our side proposes that within seventy two (72) hours after the Armistice Agreement becomes effective each side dispatch to the portion of the Demilitarized Zone under its control police personnel not exceeding one thousand (1,000), including the civil police. Our side also proposes that the civil police only carry pistols, rifles, hand grenades, tommyes and Carbines.

UNITED NATIONS: We note your proposal. We will study your proposal and furnish you an answer.

At a staff officers meeting between your side and our side held on 26 July 1953, your side proposed that to expedite the carrying out of the various works after the Armistice, your side considered that the specific rules of procedure for the Military Armistice Commission, organization of the Secretariat, the control, organization, operations and support of the Joint Observer Teams, and our proposal for the construction of the headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission could be referred to the Secretaries to be designated by each side. Our side agrees in principle to the consideration of these questions by Staff Officers from each side. To speed matters we suggest the construction of the headquarters and rules of procedure be discussed by a staff officer committee. If you agree I nominate Colonel Weber as

UNITED NATIONS: our representative and suggest these Staff Officers
(CONT'D) meet at fifteen hundred (1500) hours today. The
Secretary for our side is prepared to discuss the
organization of the Secretariat with the Secretary
of your side. Our side suggests the Secretaries meet
today to discuss these problems at a time to be agreed
upon by the Secretaries.

NORTH KOREA: We propose that matters concerning the Observer Teams
be referred to the Staff Officers for discussion.

Our side designated Colonel Huang Chien Chi and
Colonel (Lei Ta?) to attend the Staff Officers' meetings.
As to the questions concerning the rules of procedure
of the Military Armistice Commission, organization of
the Secretariat, and the construction of the headquarters,
we propose that they be discussed and settled by the
Secretaries of both sides.

UNITED NATIONS: Our side concurs but desires to point out that Colonel
Weber is the man from our side to discuss the construction
of headquarters and the rules of procedure.

NORTH KOREA: Unless your side has anything further to present, we
propose that we recess until eleven o'clock tomorrow
morning.

UNITED NATIONS: We agree.

Meeting recessed at 1302 hours.