

Documents and Commentaries
on the
Cease-Fire and Armistice Negotiations
In Korea

(II)

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Documents and Commentaries

on the

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INTRODUCTION

No appreciable progress has so far been made in the Kaisung negotiations for a cease-fire and armistice in Korea. The conference that opened on July 10, and after agreeing on the agenda, went into substantive discussions on July 26, is still deadlocked in the question of fixing a military demarcation line for the establishment of a demilitarised zone between the two belligerent armies. The point at issue is where this line should be drawn.

General Nam Il, speaking for the Korean and Chinese Delegation, has maintained that the 38th Parallel should be fixed as the military demarcation line from which both belligerents will withdraw their troops ten kilometres. He pointed out that this conforms to military realities and is the only fair and just proposal that will contribute to a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

The Delegation of the United Nations Command refused this eminently reasonable proposal. Instead, they put forward a fantastic counter-proposal that the military demarcation line be drawn somewhere between advanced positions held by the American forces and the Yalu River, that is to say, deep into North Korea. This preposterous proposal was based by the Americans on their contention that they must have "some compensation for their air and naval superiority."

The talks deadlocked on this item for many days. Meanwhile the Americans have continued to display their "air and naval superiority" in killing defenceless Korean civilians, women and children in raids and bombardments.

On August 4, a minor incident occurred. A number of our armed guards inadvertently passed through the Kaisung conference area. The U.N. Delegation notified General Nam Il about this and received assurances that an investigation would be made. However, though both sides agreed to meet again on August 5, the U.N. Delegation did not turn up for the next meeting.

In spite of further assurances given by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese people's volunteers on August 6 that steps had been taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, General Ridgway made this trivial incident a pretext to interrupt the negotiations again. They were resumed only on August 10, 1951. But, up to the moment of writing, they have still produced no further agreement because of the unreasonable U.S. claims.

Meanwhile, General Nam Il protested a second time on August 9 to the American Chief Delegate Admiral Joy about U.S. strafing of a Korean-Chinese Delegation lorry on August 7. He rejected as completely unsatisfactory Joy's reply to his first protest.

To keep our readers fully informed of the course of the Kaisung conference since July 26, we present here the texts of relevant documents and several despatches and commentaries published in the Chinese press. These make it clear why the 38th Parallel should be fixed as the military demarcation line. They shed light on the preposterous and sinister nature of the American proposals and activities at Kaisung.

The documents relating to the opening and first meetings of the conference appeared in the Supplement to Vol. IV, No. 3 of *People's China*.

Report and Commentaries

The Course of Negotiations

A Hsinhua News Agency Report from Its Special Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, July 29—After discussions in 10 meetings, the two sides in the Korean armistice negotiations reached agreement on the agenda and began to discuss the second item on the agenda in the afternoon meeting of July 26 immediately after the agenda was adopted.

Discussions of the agenda in these armistice negotiations were spread over 17 days, from July 10 till agreement was finally reached. But the actual total time of the meetings was no more than 21 hours and 40 minutes. During the period of the discussions, the meetings were adjourned seven days in all because the American side used the pretext of trivial questions of press coverage and the fixing of Kaisung as a neutral zone and because the two sides had different views on some questions for the agenda. It was only after the delegates of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers, showing the fullest sincerity in the armistice talks, made repeated concessions on a number of questions that agreement was rapidly reached in the discussion concerning the agenda.

Everybody knows that only two days after the armistice negotiations began, Joy and Ridgway caused the negotiations to be suspended for as long as three days on the pretext of two side questions, namely, coverage by reporters at Kaisung and the fixing of Kaisung as a temporary neutral zone. To eliminate misunderstanding and disputes on side questions and to enable the peace negotiations to go ahead smoothly, our side agreed in principle to fix Kaisung as a temporary neutral zone during the period of the negotiations and to afford facilities to the American side in the matter of coverage by reporters, thus removing all the pretexts put up by the American side and enabling the armistice negotiations to reopen on July 15.

On the matter of the agenda, the question of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea became the principal question on which both sides had divergent opinions. At the first session of the negotiations held on July 10, General Nam Il, the chief delegate of our side, in a brief speech, defined the basic attitude of the Chinese and Korean peoples towards the negotiations for an armistice in Korea. In this speech, he made three just and reasonable proposals, pointing out that the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea is a basic condition for ensuring the ending of the Korean war and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

From that time till the eighth meeting on July 21, our delegates pressed for the inclusion of this

question on the agenda with a view to having it discussed and settled. The American delegates, however, refused, time and again, to include it on the agenda. The grounds given for refusing to discuss it is that they took the question of withdrawing all foreign troops from Korea as a "political question." They obviously sought to separate the question of withdrawing all foreign troops from Korea from that of obtaining a cease-fire and armistice in Korea and settling the Korean question peacefully.

With the American side's repeated refusal to include this question on the agenda, our delegates at the meeting of July 21 proposed a three-day recess in order that both sides might give careful consideration to the matter. When the meeting resumed on July 25, our delegates agreed to the proposal of the American side that the question of withdrawing all foreign troops from Korea be left for another meeting to settle after the cease-fire and armistice, and did not include it in the agenda for that meeting, in order to arrive at an early armistice agreement so as to realise the initial hopes of the world's peace-loving people and the urgent hopes for an armistice on the part of the troops of foreign countries engaged in the war. Our delegates also proposed the addition of a fifth item, "proposals to the governments concerned on both sides," to the four items on the agenda already agreed upon, in order to discuss the making of proposals to the governments concerned on both sides for the convening of a meeting of representatives of both sides at a higher level within a certain period after the carrying out of the armistice agreement, to consider the withdrawing by stages of all foreign troops from Korea. This new proposal submitted by our side was rapidly agreed upon by both sides at the 10th meeting held at 1:00 p.m. on July 26.

The sincere desire for peace shown by our delegates enabled the armistice negotiations to enter speedily on discussions of questions of substance.

When the second item on the agenda was discussed at the meetings on July 26 and 27, our delegates concretely put forward the view that the 38th Parallel be fixed as the military demarcation line between the two sides, for the establishment of a demilitarised zone, as a basic condition for ending hostilities in Korea. But so far the American delegates have refused to discuss the question of fixing the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line between the two sides. Whether the Korean armistice negotiations can proceed smoothly in the future depends on the sincerity of the Americans.

U.S. Delegates Reject 38th Parallel Line

A Commentary by the Hsinhua Special Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, Aug. 2—It is now seven days since the armistice negotiations in Korea began discussing questions of substance on the agenda.

There has been, however, no progress at all during these seven days in the negotiations because the American delegates have unreasonably refused to fix the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line between both sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone. It will be recalled that in his broadcast on June 23 which was welcomed by the whole world, Malik, the Soviet delegate to the United Nations, made the point that the withdrawal of troops by both belligerents from the 38th Parallel in order to achieve a cease-fire and armistice was the first step towards the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. He regarded the adoption of this step as possible "provided there is a sincere desire to put an end to the bloody fighting in Korea."

The United States' sincerity in the armistice negotiations is now indeed facing a serious test.

The whole world knows that the Delegation of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers has fully demonstrated their genuine goodwill in the armistice negotiations during the discussions concerning the agenda.

The persistent demand by the delegates of our side that the 38th Parallel be fixed as the military demarcation line between both sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone is a further demonstration of the genuine desire on our side for the ending of the Korean war and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. At the same time, it is also the common demand of the overwhelming majority of mankind all over the world.

It is obvious that the fixing of the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line between both sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone is the foundation on which both sides agreed to conduct the armistice negotiations. This most basic condition is just and reasonable to both sides. There is no doubt that it is also practicable so long as both sides are sincere about the armistice.

To understand this point, it is worth looking back and analysing the situation in the Korean war. Everybody knows that the war has been going on for 13 months. In the first six months, one side pushed its fighting line to the Laktong River on the southern extreme of the peninsula. Later, the other side pushed northwards to the Yalu River. Since January of this year, however, the war has been going on in areas to the north and south of the 38th Parallel.

In the past seven months, the Korean People's Army and Chinese people's volunteers have twice

pushed south of the 38th Parallel. It was only after they had carried out their tasks and retreated north on their own initiative that the American and Rhee troops were able to make their way across the Parallel. In the seven months they have been north of the Parallel for two months; while the Korean and Chinese fighters have been south of it for five months.

Both belligerents now hold areas north and south of the Parallel. The area held by the Korean and Chinese fighters south of the Parallel extends over 130 kilometres, from Ongchin Peninsula to the west, then eastward through Kaisung to Namuri north of Changtan. The area temporarily held by the American and Rhee troops north of the Parallel extends over 140 kilometres from Koranpuri on the west to Maryungri north of Kansong on the east coast.

The extent of both areas is nearly equal. The 38th Parallel reflects the present military situation and the comparative balance of both parties' military strength.

Is it not just and fair for both parties to take the Parallel as the military demarcation line, to withdraw from it north and south and thus establish a demilitarised zone? Is it not reasonable for the war to end with the restoration of the Parallel, the place at which it began?

The American and British press has been quoting some warlike Americans as saying that the 38th Parallel is a latitudinal, geographical expression, not a military line. True, the Parallel is a latitudinal, geographical expression; but it is also the best military demarcation line and it is the armistice line decided by the present military situation and the balance of both parties' military strength.

Despite their naval and air forces, the Americans cannot and dare not push the fighting front northwards again. During the armistice meetings, the Korean and Chinese people's forces have never for a moment considered pushing the military demarcation line again to the Laktong River, because their concern has been how to end the Korean war early and fulfil the desires for peace held by the peaceful peoples and the American and Rhee troops.

The Korean and Chinese people's forces hold firmly that the 38th Parallel should be regarded as the military demarcation line between both sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone for the purposes of the cease-fire and armistice.

The American and British press has reported the American view that the 38th Parallel has no military significance whatsoever and is unfavourable to the American defences. If this argument is followed up, then comparatively the conditions are more unfavourable to the peace-loving Korean people, for

the fact is very obvious that the peace-loving Korean people will never themselves launch attacks on others but rather are in the position of having to hit back after they are attacked by others.

The United States accepted Malik's proposal and expressed its willingness to negotiate peace, yet it persistently refuses to fix the 38th Parallel as the armistice demarcation line, arguing that it is not a military line. This leads people to doubt whether the American delegates have come to negotiate peace in Korea or to gain a breathing space for further fighting. This question has to be answered in a concrete way by the American delegates at the meetings.

There is a symptom to which it is worth calling the vigilance and attention of the people of the world. As is well known, during the peace talks Kaisung has been temporarily made a neutral zone as suggested by the American delegates. Yet since the Kaisung armistice negotiations started on July

10, and until July 29, the American and Rhee troops have broken in 14 times across the 15-kilometre outer perimeter southeast, south and southwest of the Kaisung neutral zone. Groups of American planes also frequently fly right across Kaisung, reconnoitring, bombing and machine-gunning the peaceful villages on the outskirts of the neutral zone. Since July 25, the American and Rhee naval vessels in the mouth of the Han River on the west coast have incessantly bombarded the peaceful villages around Bonghari, Tangtupori and Baikmasan. The sound of this gunfire can be heard in Kaisung clearly day and night. The American aggressive forces are dreaming of applying "pressure" on the Kaisung armistice talks by their highly-boasted naval and air superiority. But the "superior strength" of the American naval and air forces has never frightened the Korean and Chinese peoples. These stupid, crude tactics of theirs reveal precisely their attitude towards the present armistice negotiations.

Why the 38th Parallel?

A Commentary by the Peking People's Daily Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, Aug. 5—Authoritative sources here confirmed that in fact the proposed American military demarcation line runs deep into our areas north of the 38th Parallel.

I was interviewing them in connection with the statement issued by the Press Office of the "Supreme Command of the Allied Powers" that "the military demarcation line upon which we must reach agreement lies somewhere between the air and sea front on the Yalu and the ground front in the area of Kaisung, Pyungkang and Rymchin River."

This statement had been made public by the *Agence France Presse* as early as July 31, and was given out later by the American and British news agencies on August 4.

The proposed American line starts from Seari, about 20 kilometres to the north of Hopari, our existing position on the east coast, and extends southwest to the west of Dosudai, about 30 kilometres to the north of our existing position on the Pyungkang front. It further extends to Wulamri, about 20 kilometres to the north of our existing position on the Ryunchun front, passing across the Rymchin River and then westward to the vicinity of Kymchun, ending up at the Ongchin Peninsula. This means that the demilitarised zone proposed by the American side goes right into the present positions held by the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers and, in addition, it wants to mark out a part of our area as positions for the American forces after the armistice. In other words, the military demarcation line put forward by the Americans requires that our side withdraw from our existing positions on the east of the Rymchin River an average of 30 to 40 kilometres, or to give up 3,000 to 4,000 square kilometres of land partly to the opposite side and partly for the demilitarised zone between the two sides and to evacuate about 2,000

to 3,000 square kilometres of land west of the Rymchin River.

In support of this outrageous claim, the much-battered Americans argue that the ground, naval and air forces each have their own frontline and since the superior American naval and air forces reach as far as the Yalu River, the demarcation line on land should allow some compensation for this factor.

What people find so horrifying and disgusting is that the Americans should be claiming "compensation" for the criminal activities of their air and naval forces in what has been nothing but the murder of innocent Koreans and the destruction of peaceful towns and villages in contravention of international law and common humanity.

In fact, without these naval and air forces, the American troops would have been driven into the sea long ago and it is only with their help that they have been able to maintain their temporary, precarious and unstable positions and avoid being pushed around anywhere at any time. Their attempt to work out this kind of claim, on the basis of separating the air and naval fronts from the ground front, is well-nigh incredible.

Their ridiculous claim completely disregards the present military balance of strength. In the past seven months the enemy has been placed in the position where its advances northward are made at a snail's pace and under great difficulties, while our southward drives always slice down through them like a knife through butter. Positions have not remained stable in these seven months and our forces have repeatedly taken the initiative in attacks which have wiped out the enemy's effectives. Thus the existing frontlines cannot reflect the actual military realities and certainly cannot be taken as the military demarcation line; still less can any line which reaches into our areas north of the present frontlines.

Another so-called "reason" put forward by the Americans in support of their wild claim is that they want to guarantee the security of their troops during the period of the armistice and need defensible positions. This so-called "reason" leads them to find the only fully "defensible positions" inside our areas, north of the present frontlines and north of the 38th Parallel. The American imperialists are skilled in this trickery of using the pretence of "defence" to expand their forces in various parts of the world, set up military bases and prepare aggressive war. They have apparently been using this same trickery at the conference table in Kaisung.

What calls for great caution is the fact that the American delegates are not thinking of peace, but stressing the angle of the war breaking out again. Actually, given good faith on both sides and mutual agreement which both should observe, what better, more effective guarantee can there be for the security of the troops of both sides than to establish the military demarcation line and demilitarised zone along the 38th Parallel?

What is behind the search not for a sincere peace and a just and reasonable demarcation line but instead for plans to establish a "defensible line" on another's territory? What is the motive? Let the peoples throughout the world form their own judgment. In the matter of defence, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea above all others has the right and necessity to demand defence of the territory of its Motherland. However, for the sake of reaching early agreement in the armistice, it is understood our side has not put forward any proposals on such lines. But the Americans, on the contrary, clamour about "defence" needs and persist in making out that there is nothing "defensible" south of the 38th Parallel, that the only "defensible" points lie north of the 38th Parallel. This "defensible positions" of argument, a so-called purely military character, is being used to support their absurd and preposterous proposal. In actual fact the political aim of the American side in pushing "defensible positions" to the north of the 38th Parallel is quite clear. The American imperialist aggressors have long been slandering as "aggressors" the Chinese and Korean peoples, who are defending their Motherlands and their borders. Now they are putting forward this particular proposal in a desperate effort to substantiate their cynical slander. This certainly cannot be tolerated by the Chinese and Korean peoples.

The well-founded proposal of our delegation that the 38th Parallel be fixed as the military demarcation line is based on verifiable facts.

Firstly, the 38th Parallel reflects the present military realities on the battlefield and the balance of military strength of both sides. For instance, in the first seven months of this year, the frontline swung across the 38th Parallel four times—our side twice pushed south and the enemy side twice north of the Parallel. Our forces have been south of the Parallel for about five months while the enemy forces have been north of it for more than two months.

One characteristic of the present frontline is its changeability; another is that the range of its changeability has been around the 38th Parallel. In general, everybody knows that both sides at pre-

sent are balanced in strength, although this is not unchangeable because of the rapid growth of the strength on our side. Thus the 38th Parallel is the only line which properly reflects present military realities.

Secondly, the 38th Parallel line is just and fair to both sides. For instance, our side and the enemy each occupies a part of the 38th Parallel. The length occupied by our side (approximately 145 kilometres) and that occupied by the enemy (approximately 165 kilometres) are nearly equal. The area held by our side at present south of the 38th Parallel (approximately 3,630 square kilometres) differs only slightly from that held by the enemy north of the Parallel (approximately 4,630 square kilometres). If the 38th Parallel is fixed as the military demarcation line and readjustments are made by both sides, neither side will be at a disadvantage and it will be very fair and reasonable.

Thirdly, the fixing of the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line is the basis accepted by the whole world for the cessation of the Korean war and the precondition for the present armistice negotiations. Therefore, it is advantageous to a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. Since these armistice negotiations are seen as a first step to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, then in deciding the military demarcation line, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question must be kept fully in view. This fundamental standpoint of our side is absolutely correct. What is the armistice for—for peace or for further fighting? The enemy is stubbornly arguing that the 38th Parallel is not a military but a territorial demarcation line so that they cannot take it into consideration. This is completely groundless.

The Chinese people firmly stand for the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line between both sides. The Chinese people started their activities of resisting America and helping Korea at a time when American imperialism, despite the opposition and warnings of the Chinese people, crossed the 38th Parallel, and pressed on to the Yalu River, menacing the security of China's mainland. Hence, for the purpose of an armistice, the 38th Parallel must be established as the military demarcation line between both sides. In fact, public opinion throughout the world has long accepted the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line between both sides.

Tracing things back to the beginning, it was Malik's proposal which initiated the present armistice negotiations and Malik publicly proposed the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line. The peace-loving people of the world will still remember the points he put forward. He asked if this was too high a price for the belligerents in Korea to pay to secure peace, and answered that it was not too high.

There is no doubt whatever that public opinion in all countries including the United States unani- mously welcomed Malik's answer. Even the American Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, himself time and again declared that it was reasonable to fix the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line. As early as June 2, 1951, Acheson stated in his testimony before the Joint Committees of the Senate that the United States could agree to a cease-fire on the 38th Parallel. And after Malik put forward his

proposal, Acheson told the House of Representatives, on June 26, that "the line of the 38th Parallel could be acceptable for a cease-fire from the military point of view." Please note Acheson specifically stated, "from the military point of view." Then why is the military point of view of Ridgway and Joy different from that of Acheson? Must Acheson now call himself a liar? It is obvious that all the nonsense against fixing the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line cannot be logically justified. It is nothing less than a plot for creating tension and deadlock in order to stall and undermine the negotiations. If both parties faced each other with sincerity and worked jointly to achieve peace, the armistice meetings would not have much difficulty in carrying on. However, bellicose elements of America do not think in the same way as peace-loving mankind. Such being the case, repeated pretexts have been cooked up for creating delays.

The Chinese and Korean peoples, and people throughout the world, must keep a very close and serious eye on the actions of the American side.

People interested in the negotiations may desire to know the atmosphere in which the meetings have been held. Every day since the negotiations started American planes have frequently been droning over the meeting hall while the meetings were in progress. Some 10 to 20 kilometres from the meeting place, the American navy has been carrying out bombardments almost every day. Provocative attacks by the American and Rhee troops have been going on ceaselessly on all the battlefields. Inhuman, frenzied bombardment and indiscriminate bombing by U.S. planes against peaceful cities in the rear and against innocent inhabitants are increasing. This is the atmosphere in which the Kaisung talks have been carried on.

All these actions fully reveal the American efforts to create a tense war atmosphere so as to

force our peace-loving side to make concessions. To cover up these provocations, the other side has gone so far as to fabricate news, stating that both parties reached a clear agreement that hostilities should go on during the talks. In fact, there has never been any such agreement. The aim of the other side is evidently to cloak its mean attempts to bend us to its will by bombardment and indiscriminate bombing. But the eyes of the world are clear. These sinister tactics will neither deceive nor intimidate others.

In order to reach an armistice agreement speedily so as to fulfil the initial hopes of peace-loving mankind, our side has made concessions on the questions brought up by the other side concerning the neutral zone, press coverage and placing the withdrawal of all foreign troops on the agenda. The people throughout the world understood this as concrete evidence of the Chinese and Korean peoples' desire for a peaceful settlement of the Korean problem. But the American imperialists have mistaken it as a sign of weakness on our side. American and British reports show again and again that they entertain such illusions. The Chinese and Korean peoples must tell them emphatically, "You are wrong!" We warmly love peace, but we will never submit to unreasonable demands. The Chinese and Korean peoples, steeled in struggle against aggression, know full well how to defend peace.

All in all, the question is now very simple. Whether the American government has any sincerity regarding the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, and is therefore agreeable to a fair and reasonable armistice agreement, must be judged entirely by the concrete actions taken by the American side inside and outside the meetings. The peoples of China, Korea and the whole world are bound to follow developments with close and solemn attention.

The U.S. Claims Are Absurd

A Commentary from the Hsinhua Special Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, Aug. 5—The American delegates are refusing our reasonable proposal for the fixing of the military demarcation line along the 38th Parallel, and advancing the absurd suggestion that the line be fixed north of the 38th Parallel, ahead of the present American battlelines and well into the positions of our forces.

This American demand is so preposterous and unwarranted that it is almost incredible. Your correspondent learns from those concerned with this matter that, if the military demarcation line were adopted as advanced by the American side, our side would have to withdraw, on the east of the Rymchin River a distance of 30 to 60 kilometres north from our present frontlines, abandoning an area of some 3,500 square kilometres and, on the west of the river, evacuate 2,000 to 3,000 square kilometres.

Our delegates are advocating that the military demarcation line be established on a just, reasonable principle. They are firmly opposing any American demand for fixing the line north of the 38th Parallel.

Still more firmly do they oppose fixing the military demarcation line along the present frontlines, let alone the absurd, groundless demand for establishing it far north of the present battlelines, a claim which is inconsistent with existing military realities and lacking in a sincere desire for peace.

The Americans are using two arguments to support this absurd claim.

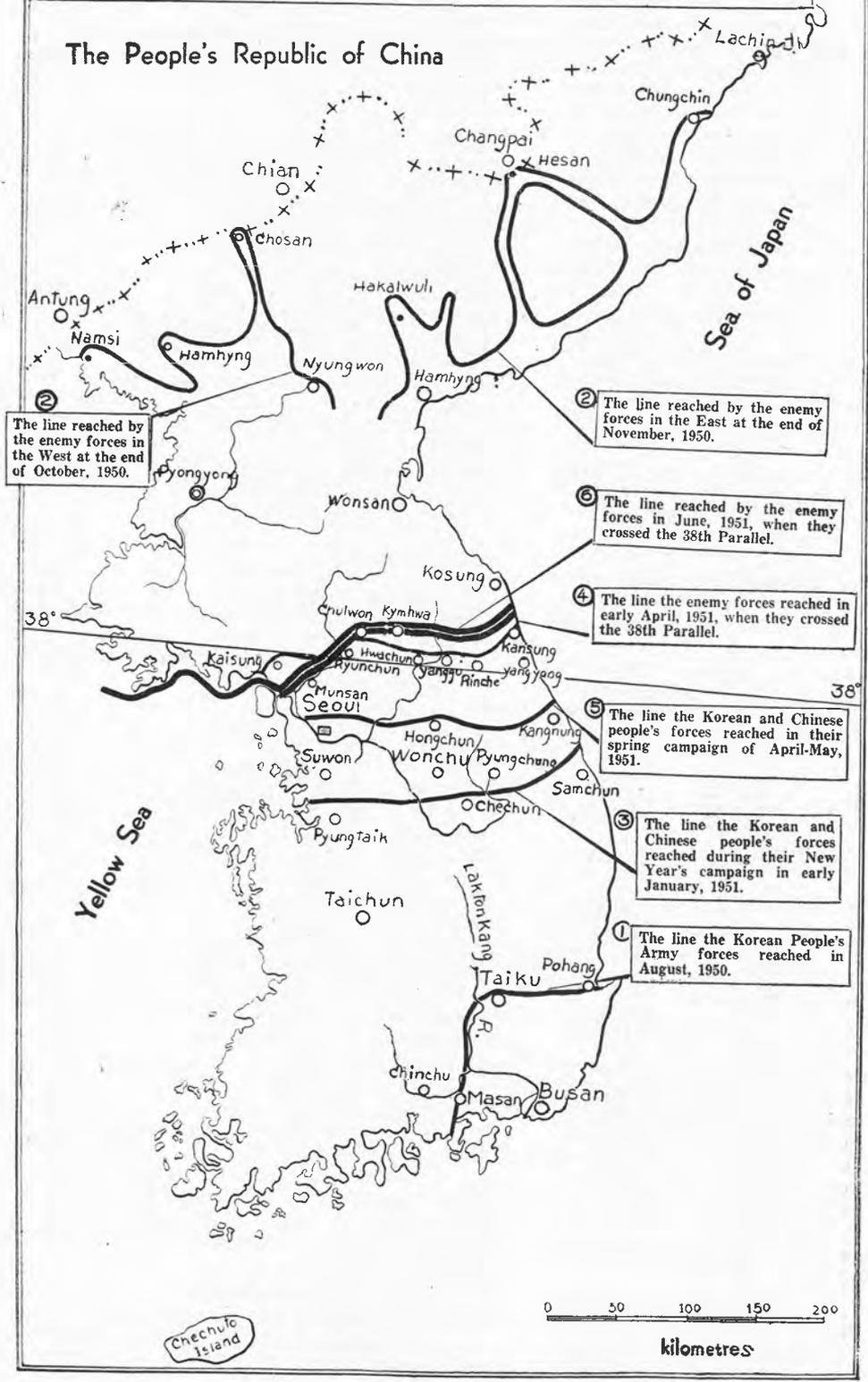
One is based self-assertively on their naval and air superiority. If their naval and air forces are to withdraw from the air over North Korea and the waters of North Korea, then they demand compensation in the drawing-up of the demilitarised area on land. The other is that they want to establish good defensive positions in favourable terrain to ensure the safety of their troops and to prevent "aggression."

These ridiculous arguments have been seriously and squarely rebutted by our delegates.

The real situation on the Korean battlefield is that the battlelines of both sides have been fluctuat-

Six lines showing the main advances and retreats of the two opposing forces north and south of the 38th Parallel.

The People's Republic of China



② The line reached by the enemy forces in the West at the end of October, 1950.

② The line reached by the enemy forces in the East at the end of November, 1950.

⑥ The line reached by the enemy forces in June, 1951, when they crossed the 38th Parallel.

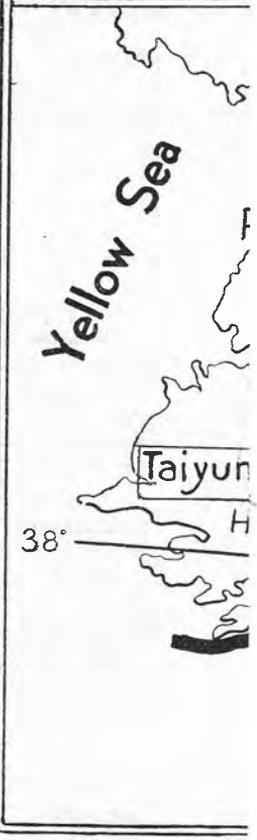
④ The line the enemy forces reached in early April, 1951, when they crossed the 38th Parallel.

⑤ The line the Korean and Chinese people's forces reached in their spring campaign of April-May, 1951.

③ The line the Korean and Chinese people's forces reached during their New Year's campaign in early January, 1951.

① The line the Korean People's Army forces reached in August, 1950.

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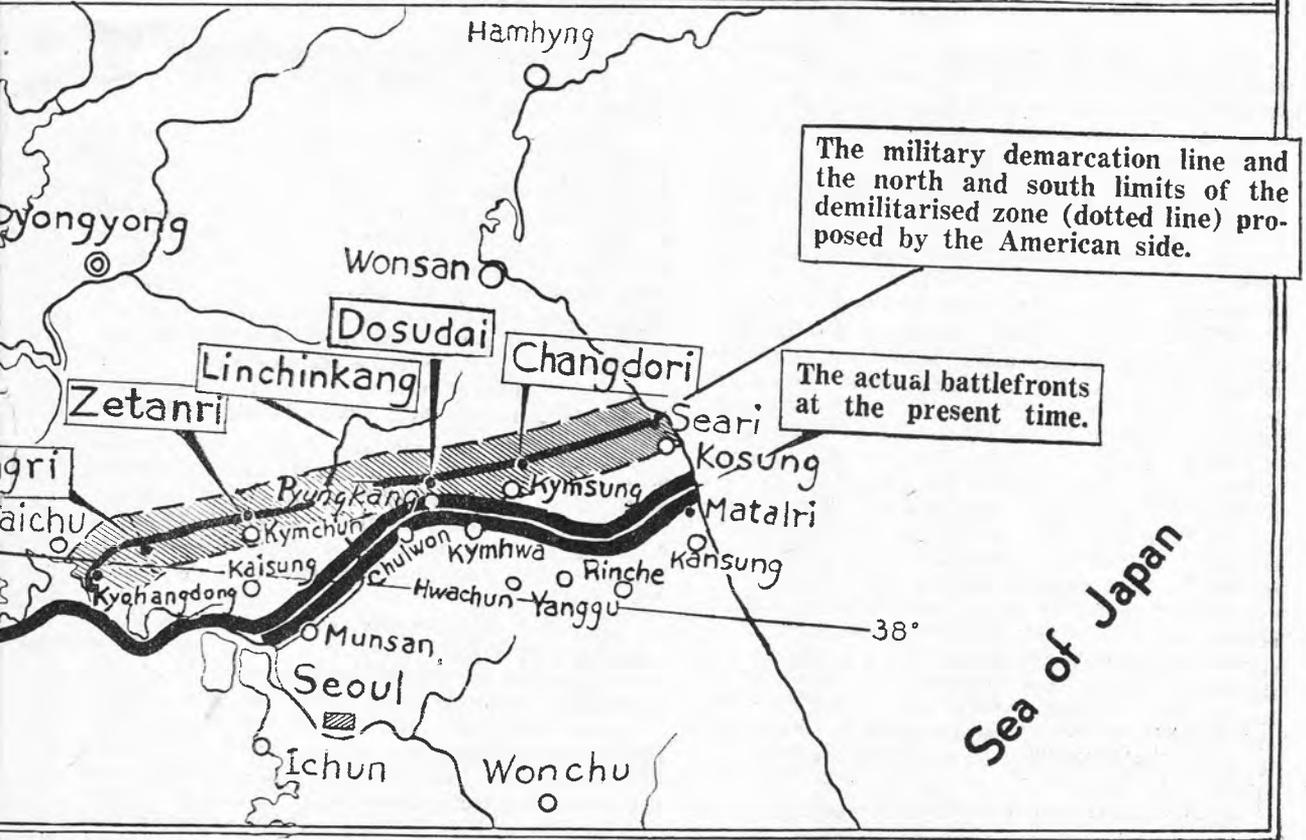
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The Military Demarcation Line Proposals At Kaisung

The Korean and Chinese Delegation at Kaisung has made the just and reasonable proposal the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line from which both sides will withdraw 10 metres to form a demilitarised zone. The American delegates propose a demarcation line that lies well north of existing battle lines and deep inside the territory of North Korea.

The two accompanying maps of Korea illustrate the points made in the Hsinhua and the People's Daily commentaries published in our Supplement, and make clear the military realities behind the two proposals.

Military demarcation line proposed by the American side at the armistice negotiations.



ing south and north across the 38th Parallel and the military strength of both sides is more or less balanced around the 38th Parallel. This military strength is the sum total of all forces, including naval and air forces. But the delegates of the American side are ignoring this military reality and laying undue one-sided emphasis on their naval and air forces as an independent and decisive military factor. Thus it is that they claim that this factor must be taken into consideration in establishing the demilitarised zone on land, with the aim of gaining some undue compensation.

Anyone with even a little military knowledge must know that the doctrine of regarding naval and air forces as an independent military factor went bankrupt long ago. This is proved by the history of modern war and is also irrefutably borne out by the 13 months of the Korean war. If naval and air forces were an independent military factor capable of playing a decisive role, then why could not America achieve victory when she first sent naval and air forces to join the war at the outbreak of the Korean war last year but was later forced to send ground forces to their rescue? Since the Americans have superior naval and air forces, why did they retreat to the Laktong River in the early days of the war and, later, again retreated from the banks of the Yalu River down to south of the Han River? MacArthur who has been removed on account of defeats in battle could not but acknowledge that aerial support could only serve an auxiliary, not a decisive purpose, and that bombardment by naval forces was also narrowly limited to the coastal areas, unable to reach the main battlefronts.

It is precisely in the situation when the American ground forces are making full use of this auxiliary force while the Chinese and Korean people's forces have not yet used this auxiliary force that the American and Rhee troops could only barely maintain their present unstable lines temporarily around the 38th Parallel. If the American forces were unable to use this auxiliary force, or if the Korean and Chinese peoples' forces also used this auxiliary force, then even this unstable battleline of the American and Rhee's forces would vanish.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that the naval and air power, about which the American delegates are boasting so much, actually does not play any great military role. It has shown great effectiveness only in destroying the peaceful towns of Korea and in killing Korean women and children. The indiscriminate bombing by the American air force of towns and villages in North Korea since July 10 is only the most recent of such bloodthirsty crimes. The American delegates now taking part in the armistice negotiations in Kaisung are, however, taking these most brutal and barbaric criminal actions of their naval and air forces as military strength to be bragged about, and ridiculously and shamelessly using them as bargaining counters for forcing their fantastic claims upon our side. Not only the Korean and Chinese peoples, but all peace-loving people throughout the world will be resolutely opposed to this.

Everybody knows that the meetings now going on at Kaisung are solemn negotiations for an armistice in Korea. Both sides should only consider

how to stop the war, put an end to the bloodshed and help to arrive at peace in Korea. The Chinese and Korean peoples support this proposal a hundred per cent. Our delegates to the armistice negotiations are also faithfully following this principle. But what the delegates of the American side are thinking of is how to establish favourable and good "defensible" positions. And for this, they also want to select American "defensible" positions north of the 38th Parallel, deep into the positions of our armed forces. They are trying to use the armistice negotiations to get positions which they could not obtain by armed force and they are calculating on further fighting. The delegates of the American side cover up the substance of this aggression with the cloak of ensuring security for their armed forces. They also have the brass to describe this aggressive scheme of theirs as the preventing of "aggression."

Who indeed are the aggressors? Is it the Chinese and Korean peoples, defending their homelands, who have invaded America, or is it the American government, which has sent its troops several thousand miles away to invade the territories of other countries and destroy the peaceful life of their peoples, that has invaded China and Korea? This most simple fact is what the American delegates, who are trying to confuse black with white, cannot alter.

Lately, the American side have disagreed with the 38th Parallel as the military line, because, it is said, this too is a "political" question. It is generally known that the 38th Parallel is by no means a territorial division for Korea. It was a military demarcation line fixed for Soviet and American troops to carry out military tasks during the war against Japan. Therefore, there is no room for disagreeing with it now as a military demarcation line during the armistice in Korea.

The American side is putting up this shield of "no discussion of political questions" in the fantastic hope of forcing our side to make concessions to their wild, unreasonable demands. The Chinese and Korean peoples consistently advocate a peaceful settlement on the Korean question. Our delegates have made concessions on the questions of news coverage and the neutral zone and withdrawal of troops. The American aggressors, their appetites whetted, are mistaking our sincerity for peace as a sign of weakness and yielding. Given a hand, they wish to grab the whole arm, and their greed knows no bounds.

This fantasy of the American delegates will come to nothing. Their insincerity and their dragging out of the negotiations will certainly arouse the strong opposition of the peoples all over the world and will also arouse even greater dissatisfaction among the American and Rhee troops at the front.

According to incomplete statistics, nearly 10,000 more men of the American and Rhee troops have been sacrificed for nothing in the course of attacks since July 10. The American and Rhee troops anxiously hope that the war will end so that they can return to their own homes. But the delegates of the American side, representing Washington at the conference table at Kaisung, cannot give up the idea of war and have not yet shown tangible sincerity for peace.

Wild U.S. Claims Aim to Sabotage Talks

A Commentary from the Hsinhua Special Correspondent in Kaisung

PYONGYANG, Aug. 6—The question which has aroused deep concern throughout the world, and on which a clear answer is being sought, is: What is the exact content of the proposal for a military demarcation line which the American side in the Korean armistice negotiations has put forward?

In recent days they suddenly and repeatedly declared that their proposal was one which took the existing frontline as a basis. Today a "denial" was issued from the Press Office of Ridgway's Headquarters which declared that statements concerning the demand of the American side for the establishment of a military demarcation line north of the existing frontline was only a rumour. But on July 31 and August 4, the "United Nations Forces" Headquarters openly stated that the military demarcation line proposed by the American side was between their so-called naval and air front at the Yalu and Tumen Rivers and the existing frontline. Therefore, what the real position is, has become a doubtful question. As to the proposal put forward by the Korean-Chinese Delegation for fixing a military demarcation line on the 38th Parallel, this is already known to the world. In order to enable the people of the world to objectively judge the rights and wrongs of the proposals made by both sides concerning a military demarcation line, I interviewed authoritative spokesmen of the General Headquarters of the Korean People's Army and the Headquarters of the Chinese people's volunteers concerning the real facts regarding the proposal of the American side.

I learned that the U.S. proposal for a demarcation line was in conformity with the proposal which had already been made known on two occasions by the "Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" in Tokyo. All talk to the effect that the proposal of the American side is based on the existing frontline is completely incompatible with the facts. Their proposed military demarcation line was put forward as a constituent part of their proposal on the demilitarised zone, which places the military demarcation line in our positions far beyond the existing frontline and north of the 38th Parallel, namely, a line starting from Seari (10 kilometres north-northwest of Kosung) on the east coast, southwestward to Changdori (10 kilometres north of Kymsung), then westward to Dosudai (10 kilometres north of Pyungkang), then southwestwards to Zetanri (four kilometres northwest of Kymchun), to Taikyungri (33 kilometres west of Kymchun), then southwestwards to Kyohangdong (17 kilometres southeast of Haichu), then southwards straight to the west coast. The northern and southern borders of the demilitarised zone which they proposed would be two lines stretching 10 miles to the north and south with this line as the centre line.

Taking the demarcation line contained in the proposal as a basis, the present position of the Americans east of the Rymchin River would be moved 18 to 31 kilometres northward, and their positions west of the Rymchin River would be moved forward 50 kilometres. The total area which they would gain to the east and west of the Rymchin River would be more than 7,400 square kilometres. But according to the principle of justice and reason, the area to the south of this demarcation line should be carved out from the American positions. The American side deliberately lump the southern border of this demilitarised zone in with the military demarcation line in order to confuse people's minds. But the people will not be deceived by this. Even with regard to the southern border of this demilitarised zone, to the east of the Rymchin River, they would also move their existing positions northwards from five to 15 kilometres; while to the west of the Rymchin River, where basically they have no existing position, they have also marked out a large area as their positions after the armistice. Thus taking the southern border of this demilitarised zone as the basis, they would also move forward more than 3,200 square kilometres. Hence, according to the American proposal, their frontlines after the armistice (namely, the southern border of the demilitarised zone) would be moved forward more than 3,200 square kilometres from the existing frontlines; while according to the same proposal, our frontlines after the armistice (namely, the northern border of the demilitarised zone) would be as follows: east of the Rymchin River we should withdraw from 38 to 53 kilometres from the existing frontlines, and west of the Rymchin River about 68 kilometres, giving up altogether more than 12,000 square kilometres.

Upon learning the American proposal concerning the military demarcation line, I consider it essential to lay bare the truth of this absurd and fantastic proposal before all just people throughout the world. It is well known to all that the basis exists for the cessation of the Korean war precisely because in the present stage there actually exists a balance of military strength between the belligerents and because people the world over are above all urgently demanding a cessation of the Korean war on a just and reasonable basis; thus, there was a universal call for stopping the Korean war on the 38th Parallel, thus there was the impartial proposal made by Malik calling on both sides to withdraw from the 38th Parallel in order to stop the Korean war and thus there emerged the prerequisites for the present armistice negotiations in Kaisung.

But notwithstanding this, the American side on the pretext of its alleged air and naval superiority brought forward such an absurd and fantastic proposal, which cannot but make people doubt whether the Americans are sincere in agreeing to the

holding of armistice negotiations or are simply using them to hoodwink world public opinion, to deceive the people and soldiers of America and other countries participating in the aggressive war in Korea, and to deceive the governments of those countries which have been coerced into taking part in the aggression and which at the moment ardently desire

an end to the war. In reality, the American side is deliberately attempting to reduce the negotiations to failure so as to continue to carry on the unjust, adventurist war of intervention in Korea which is opposed by people throughout the world. All peace-loving people the world over should pay serious attention to this plot of the American authorities.

A New U.S. Attempt to Stall Talks

A Commentary from the Hsinhua Special Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, Aug. 7—The 20th meeting of the Korean armistice negotiations, scheduled to take place at 10:00 hours (Korean time) on August 5 was postponed because the other side used the pretext of an incident, in which some of our guards had strayed inadvertently into the area of the meeting, to stay away from Kaisung. Our liaison officer had made a concrete and clear reply to the American delegates concerning our investigation into and the measures taken on this incident on the morning of August 5, and guaranteed there would be no recurrence. People of various sections of society here have praised our forthright and serious attitude to all questions and see in it another mark of our sincerity towards the armistice negotiations and the question of a peaceful settlement in Korea.

I understand that similar incidents have occurred on the American side in the course of the negotiations. On the afternoon of July 16, for example, an incident occurred in the area of the American side just over 20 kilometres east of Kaisung, when a small number of armed soldiers fired in the direction of Panmunjon on our side, which is at the entrance to the neutral zone. When our delegates received reports from that locality, they notified the delegates of the American side and called their attention to it. But our delegates had no desire to exaggerate the incident and did not threaten or hamper the progress of the meeting on account of it. This also simply shows the sincerity of our side regarding the armistice negotiations.

In the 29 days since the beginning of the Korean armistice negotiations, only 19 meetings have been held. In this period, meetings have twice been suspended on account of minor side issues. The first was on July 12 when Ridgway seized on the trifling matter of press coverage and the establishment of a temporary neutral zone at Kaisung to suspend the meetings for three days. Now Ridgway has again stopped his delegation from coming to the Kaisung meetings on the pretext of an incident about a group of our guards inadvertently entering the meeting area.

People may ask why is Ridgway doing this? If we examine this incident in relation to the Kaisung meetings during the past 10 days, it is not hard to find the answer. From July 26 to August 4, the main question at Kaisung has been the fixing of a military demarcation line between both sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone. Our delegates have repeatedly proposed the fixing of the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line and

have demolished the absurd American claim that the military demarcation line be fixed north of the 38th Parallel and deep into our positions.

In putting this absurd claim forward, the American side knew that it was beyond all reasons and so kept it dark from the outside world. But on July 31 it was first leaked by A.F.P., and in the circumstances, Ridgway's Headquarters in Tokyo had to make it public, which it did on August 4, through its press office in a statement entitled "Background Material on the Establishment of Demilitarised Zone." Nevertheless, until Ridgway was forced to publish his preposterous proposal in Tokyo, Joy at the advance base of Munsan in Korea was still using various devices to keep the lid on the facts. The American press officer was still deliberately telling correspondents in the most solemn terms that it would be a serious mistake and absurd reasoning to demand a line somewhere between the Yalu River and the present battlelines. When this was passed on to correspondents in Tokyo, who had already read the background information, they at once challenged Ridgway's Headquarters which replied that their published version was correct. The confusion among correspondents between Tokyo's Ridgway and Munsan's Joy was such that even Reuter's correspondent declared in a news despatch that what line the United Nations was really demanding had become a mystery. The same correspondent also commented on the nonsensical proposal published in Tokyo that there was no precedent in history of a belligerent demanding territory on the basis of its air and naval strength. This shows the awkward and embarrassing position that Ridgway was in before the evening of August 4 in the eyes of the peoples all over the world.

At the 19th armistice negotiations meeting in Kaisung on August 4, both sides agreed to meet again at 10:00 hours on the following day. Only when the meeting ended, did Joy notify our side about the incident of some of our guards straying into the meeting area. Our delegates affirmed that investigations would be made and a reply given. The communique issued on Joy's return to Munsan after the meeting still stated that the meeting would take place on the 5th as scheduled, and as late as 19:00 hours (Korean time) a UP report declared that the incident on the 4th would not effect the scheduled meeting. Yet at 06:20 hours (Tokyo time) on August 5, a message to General Kim Il Sung and General Peng Teh-huai was broadcast from Ridgway in Tokyo, stating that the delegation, on

Ridgway's instructions, would not attend the meeting. Local comment here is that Ridgway is once again making a mountain out of a mole hill in order to stall progress at the meetings, and the reason for this is that he is at his wit's end, his obviously unreasonable attitude having been too clearly exposed and that this has placed him in an unfavourable position, without any initiative, in regard to the

question of fixing an armistice military demarcation line and establishing a demilitarised zone. To divert attention and gain time, he is trying to think up the same kind of tricks as on July 12. But the eyes of the people of the world are clear and they will not be hoodwinked. All he is doing is to give people a deeper understanding of the American side which always prates about its sincerity.

The 38th Parallel--A Test of U.S. Sincerity

A Commentary from the Hsinhua Special Correspondent in Kaisung

KAISUNG, Aug. 8—The Korean armistice negotiations were suspended for another day as a result of the delegates of the American side failing, without any justification, to come to Kaisung. Three days ago, Ridgway broke off the meeting for one day on the pretext of the incident of a number of our guards straying into the meeting area. But after General Kim Il Sung and General Peng Teh-huai gave a satisfactory reply on August 6 to Ridgway's message, the latter sent a reply to our side as late as 2:30 p.m. yesterday (August 7), and still did not fix a date for resuming the meeting. The fact that the delegates of the American side failed to come to the meeting on such a pretext has caused the people of the world to doubt the basic sincerity of the American side regarding the armistice negotiations.

The purpose of holding the Korean armistice negotiations is to settle the most acute question in the world today, i.e., to bring to an end the bloody conflict in Korea. The peace-loving people throughout the world have been watching Kaisung, hoping for the success of this solemn meeting. But during the nearly one month that has passed in the course of the meeting, no practical achievement has been made except the agreement on the agenda. In the discussion of the basic condition for bringing about an armistice in Korea, that is, the question of fixing a military demarcation line between the two sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone, the meeting has bogged down owing to the fact that the delegates of the American side flatly refused to fix a military demarcation line on the 38th Parallel and arrogantly put forward the absurd proposal for fixing a military demarcation line north of the 38th Parallel and deep into the area of our side.

During the past 13 months of fighting, the Korean and Chinese peoples and their military forces have defeated the invading American troops with light weapons; in the last nine months alone they wiped out more than 270,000 enemy troops. The Korean and Chinese people's forces rank among the few most powerful armies in the world. They also possess powerful artillery units which have not yet been used, and a fairly powerful people's air force. Such powerful forces cannot be defeated by any enemy.

The peoples of Korea and China hold peace dearly, and firmly advocate a peaceful solution of the Korean question. That is why, unlike the American delegates, they have not demanded "compensation" as regards the question of the military demar-

cation line on the strength of their powerful army. Thus our delegates limited themselves to the just and reasonable proposal that the troops of both sides withdraw from the 38th Parallel to establish a demilitarised zone. The American side's refusal to take the 38th Parallel as the military demarcation line and its fantastic attempt to establish the military demarcation line well into our area north of the 38th Parallel are acts of injustice which have prevented the negotiations from proceeding smoothly, the war from being ended quickly, and Korea from achieving an early restoration of peace.

During the discussions on the fixing of the demarcation line and the establishment of the demilitarised zone, it has been clearly proved which side is truly sincere for peace, and which side has again attempted to utilise the armistice talks to gain what its armed forces cannot achieve and to make preparations to continue the war.

Our delegation has made concessions in the minor questions of press coverage and of making the Kaisung area a neutral zone, and the question of removing from the agenda the withdrawal of foreign troops. It has also made a sincere reply and given guarantees with regards to the question of a number of our guards straying into the meeting area inadvertently. All this proves that our side has the sincere desire for terminating the war in Korea and a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. This desire is at the same time the universal demand of peace-loving people throughout the world. But the delegates of the American side unreasonably made trouble and stalled the progress of the meetings on a series of minor questions. They also insisted upon the absurd and arrogant proposal for fixing a military demarcation line north of the 38th Parallel and deep into the positions of our side, in the name of "establishing a defensible position" and "guaranteeing the security of troops." The Americans show that during the armistice negotiations for peace, they are constantly thinking about continuing the war. In the course of the negotiations, American ground forces still continue to attack and American naval and air forces to intensify their frenzied bombardment and bombing. Whilst the people throughout the world are demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea, America took further steps to force its satellite countries to send more troops to Korea. According to the weekly *Time* of July 30, since the Korean armistice negotiations began, America has sent over

to Korea the 116th Bomber Wing of the U.S. Air Force, which was originally earmarked for Europe, the aircraft carrier *Essex*, two cruisers and a complement of destroyers to devastate Korean towns and villages and slaughter peaceful citizens. These facts show that even in the course of the negotiations the American side has never abandoned its plans for continuing the war. The armistice negotiations can never smoothly attain success if one side still does not abandon such plans.

Due to the fact that the peoples of the Soviet Union, China and Korea uphold a peaceful policy, and that the overwhelming majority of mankind throughout the world long for peace, the United States government accepted Malik's proposal and

consented to the holding of negotiations for an armistice in Korea. But in the course of the Korean armistice meeting, there cannot but take place a sharp and determined struggle between the side whose policy is for an armistice and peace in Korea and the side whose policy is for aggressive war. This is reflected in the just and reasonable contention of the Korean and the Chinese people who insist that the 38th Parallel be fixed as a military demarcation line between the two sides for the establishment of a demilitarised zone and at the same time firmly oppose the absurd and arrogant proposals for fixing a military demarcation line on the existing frontline, or for pushing the military demarcation line to the far north beyond the existing frontline.

DOCUMENTS

The following documents relate to the interruption of the armistice talks from August 5 to August 9, when the American side made an issue of the incident of armed guards belonging to the neutral zone entering the conference area by mistake.

FROM GENERAL M. B. RIDGWAY, August 6, 1951

General Kim Il Sung and General Peng Teh-huai:

It has been officially verified by eyewitnesses, confirmed with still and movie photography, that on or about 13:45 hours 4th August, armed military forces, not belonging to the UN Command, were observed in Kaesong (Kaisung) within approximately 100 yards of the conference house. These forces, approximately an infantry company, were plodding in an easterly direction on foot and were armed with rifles, pistols, grenades, automatic weapons and mortars.

Your attention is invited to the following: On 13th July, 1951, I broadcast a message addressed to you which contained the following passage: "The assurances which I require are simple and few. They included as primary prerequisites the establishment of an agreed conference area, of suitable extent, completely free of armed personnel of either side."

In the same message I stated: now propose that a circular area with its centre at approximately the centre of Kaesong, and with a five-mile radius, be agreed upon as a neutral zone, the eastern limit of the neutral zone shall be the point of contact of our forces at Panmunjon. I propose that we both agree to refrain from hostile acts of any kind within this zone during the period of our conference. I propose that we agree that the area of the conference site and the roads leading thereto used by personnel of both delegation parties be completely free of armed personnel.

On 14 July, 1951, you broadcast to me a reply to this message which stated among other things, "we have received the proposition dated 13 July and have agreed to make Kaesong the neutral zone as you have proposed."

I now invite your attention to this flagrant violation of the assurances which I required and which you promised. The United Nations Command delegation is prepared to continue conversations as soon as satisfactory explanation of this violation and assurance of non-recurrence are received. Meanwhile, the United Nations Command Delegation will remain within United Nations lines.

I await your reply.

(Signed)

M. B. RIDGWAY,
General, United States Army, Commander-in-Chief
of the United Nations Command.

FROM GENERAL KIM IL SUNG AND GENERAL PENG TEH-HUAI, August 6, 1951

General Ridgway:

Your message to hand. Concerning the incident at 13:00 hours on August 4 when, in violation of the agreement, a group of guards of our side belonging to the neutral zone of Kaisung, carrying improper arms, by mistake entered the area of the meeting place, our chief delegate ordered his liaison officer Colonel Chang Chun San to inform your delegation at 09:30 hours on the 5th how this came about and, in addition, to make it clear that our chief delegate has again ordered the personnel responsible

for the guards in the neutral zone of Kaisung to pay serious attention to the prohibition on guards entering the area of the meeting place and to guarantee strict fulfilment of the order so as to prevent any recurrence of such an incident.

In order that our meetings shall not be impeded by such accidental, minor incidents, we have again ordered our guards in the Kaisung neutral zone to adhere strictly to the agreement of July 14 and to ensure that incidents violating the agreement shall not occur again. We hope that, on receipt of this reply, you will immediately order your delegation to come to Kaisung and resume the meetings.

(Signed)

KIM IL SUNG,
Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.
PENG TEH-HUAI,
Commander of the Chinese people's volunteers.

FROM GENERAL M. B. RIDGWAY, August 7, 1951

General Kim Il Sung and General Peng Teh-huai:

I have received and noted contents of your message of 6 August. You state that orders have again been issued to your Kaesong (Kaisung) area guards to adhere strictly to the regulation that no armed guards would enter the conference area, in order that incidents similar to that of 4 August will not occur again.

I have also noted that you described such incidents as minor, accidental and trivial. Such incidents are of fundamental importance, as I have before pointed out. The incidents are neither minor nor trivial. Their accidental nature is in doubt, since mortar and machinegun squads, in violation of your agreement, were present with their equipment in the neutral area, whereas the only armed forces in the neutral area were to be those required for military police functions.

It must be clearly understood that my acceptance of a resumption of the armistice talks is conditional on complete compliance with your guarantees of neutralisation of the Kaesong area. Any further failure in this regard will be interpreted as a deliberate move on your part to terminate the armistice negotiations.

I wait your acceptance of this condition.

(Signed)

M. B. RIDGWAY,
*General, United States Army, Commander-in-Chief
of the United Nations Command.*

FROM GENERAL KIM IL SUNG AND GENERAL PENG TEH-HUAI, August 9, 1951

General Ridgway:

Your message of August 7 has been received.

We informed you in our reply dated August 6 that "we have again ordered our guards in the Kaisung neutral zone to adhere strictly to the agreement of July 14 and to ensure that incidents violating the agreement shall not occur again." You must be aware that this agreement is the same agreement concerning the neutralisation of the Kaisung area referred to in your message of August 7. As we have seriously ensured the strict adherence to the agreement concerning the neutralisation of the Kaisung area, it is inconceivable that there will be any further failure on our part to comply with the agreement, unless you should deliberately fabricate incidents as an excuse to terminate the armistice negotiations. On our part, we definitely will not terminate the negotiations rashly and irresponsibly without going through the procedural steps of protest, investigation, consultation and settlement, should a similar failure on your part occur.

We continue to hope that you will instruct your delegates to come to Kaisung to resume the conference.

(Signed)

KIM IL SUNG,
Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.
PENG TEH-HUAI,
Commander of the Chinese people's volunteers.

The following protest was sent by General Nam Il, chief delegate of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese people's volunteers, to Vice-Admiral Joy, chief of the United Nations Forces Delegation, following further U.S. violations of the agreement on the cease-fire talks and Kaisung neutral zone.

FROM GENERAL NAM IL, August 9, 1951

Vice-Admiral Joy, Chief Delegate of the United Nations Forces Delegation:

At 15:00 hours on August 7, a supply lorry of our delegation, which in conformity with the agreement had its front decked with a piece of white cloth and flew a white flag, encountered two aeroplanes of your side at a point six kilometres north of Sibyonri, while on its way from Kaisung to Pyongyang.

Your side's planes circled for a very long time over our delegation's lorry and strafed it twice in succession with machine-gun fire, damaging its mechanism in front and making it unable to move. There is ample evidence on our side to prove the above-mentioned fact.

The liaison officers of both sides, at the preliminary meeting on July 8, clearly agreed that aeroplanes of your side would not be allowed to attack vehicles of our delegation bearing white-flag signals. On July 21, our liaison officers drew the attention of your side to attacks by your aeroplanes on four transport vehicles of our delegation, which bore white flags, at Hwangchu and Sariwon. At that time your side again guaranteed that all vehicles of our delegation carrying white flags and having white cloth covering their fronts would henceforth not be attacked. It is clear that the afore-mentioned facts show an obvious violation of the agreement between the two sides. It is worth pointing out here that this is a further violation of the agreement, following closely in the wake of the shooting at Panmunjon in the neutral zone by armed personnel of your side. On the above fact I lodge a solemn protest with you, and desire that you will guarantee that there will be no recurrence of such incidents which violate the agreement.

(Signed)

GENERAL NAM IL,
Chief of the Delegation of the Korean People's
Army and the Chinese people's volunteers.

FROM VICE-ADMIRAL C. TURNER JOY, August 9, 1951

General Nam Il:

I have received your letter complaining of an air attack made on one of your vehicles at Sibyonri (SEC), approximately 25 miles northeast of Kaesong. Your complaint is completely without validity. On 8 July your senior liaison officer, Colonel Chang, was told verbally by the senior United Nations Command Liaison Officer, Colonel Kinney, that vehicles serving your delegation at Kaesong would be exempt from attack if prior notification of their route and time of travel were provided the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command. And if such vehicles were plainly marked with white. In addition, Colonel Kinney, Senior United Nations Command Liaison Officer, furnished Colonel Chang, Senior Communist Liaison Officer, the foregoing in writing, I quote from the information sheet for the Communist Liaison Officer, given to Colonel Chang by Colonel Kinney on 8 July:

"A Communist convoy marked with white crosses will not be attacked by United Nations forces in transit to and from Kaesong at such time and over such route as is communicated to Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command."

As a result, you did furnish Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, notification of the time and route of transit of your convoy proceeding to Kaesong on 9 July, thus indicating your understanding of the requirement for notification. In addition, on 21 July, Colonel Kinney again informed Colonel Chang that notification of the time and route of travel of your vehicles between Pyongyang and Kaesong was a necessary prerequisite to exemption from attack. Again Colonel Chang indicated his understanding of his requirement by complaining that it was difficult to communicate such notification in each instance. Colonel Kinney then informed Colonel Chang for the third time that without such notification, exemption from attack could not be guaranteed. You are, of course, aware that communication between your station at Kaesong and the United Nations Command south of Imjin is maintained constantly.

I note that the location of the attacks you allege is considerably east of the main road between Pyongyang and Kaesong. This fact raises the question in my mind whether your forces are abusing the use of white markings for purposes other than serving your delegation.

As to the report made by Colonel Chang to Colonel Kinney on 8 August of an incident alleged to have occurred at Panmunjon on 7 August. I note that you delayed more than 24 hours in transmitting this report.

This thereby precluded a timely investigation. However, the matter is now being given such consideration as it deserves.

(Signed)

C. TURNER JOY,
*Vice-Admiral, United States Navy,
Senior United Nations Delegate.*

FROM GENERAL NAM IL, August 9, 1951

Vice-Admiral Joy, Chief Delegate of the Delegation of the United Nations Forces:

I have received your reply concerning the strafing by aircraft of your side of our delegation's supply lorry which was flying a white flag and covered with a white cloth on its hood. Your reply is entirely unsatisfactory. At the preparatory meeting of the liaison officers of both sides on July 8, regarding the question of the impermissibility of your aircraft attacking our delegation's vehicles marked with white flags, our side at no time agreed to the demand put forward then by your side that there should be advance notification of route and time of travel. To say, in the message of your side, that our side notified the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Forces about the time and route of travel of our vehicle convoy which was proceeding to Kaisung on July 9 is an entire fabrication.

This is further proof that our side never agreed to the aforementioned demand of your side. The fact is that ever since the preparatory meeting of the liaison officers of both sides, our side has on no occasion notified your side about times and routes of travel of our delegation's vehicle convoys which were marked with white flags. Ever since the meeting of the liaison officers of both sides, we have always considered that there is no need whatever to notify your side in advance concerning the time and route of travel of our delegation's vehicles which are marked with white flags. On July 21, your liaison officer Colonel A. J. Kinney still more explicitly agreed that every vehicle of our delegation marked with a white cloth and white flag shall be immune from attack and that it is unnecessary to notify your side in advance of the route and time of travel. When our liaison officer called the attention of your side to the fact that planes of your side attacked at Wonju and Sariwon four transport vehicles of our delegation flying white flags, your liaison officer once again requested that it would be advisable for our side, whenever possible, to notify your delegation in advance of the route and time of travel of our vehicle convoys; but when our liaison officer made it clear that our side had always had an understanding that there was no necessity to give advance notification of the route and time of travel of our delegation's vehicle convoys marked with white flags, your liaison officer Colonel A. J. Kinney clearly expressed agreement and only requested that in addition to flying white flags on our delegation's vehicles, the hoods of these vehicles should be covered with white cloth to make them distinguishable. Since then, vehicles of our delegation in addition to flying white flags have covered their hoods with white cloth. The supply lorry of our side which was strafed by the planes of our side near Sibyonri on August 7 carried such markings—a white cloth over the hood in addition to a white flag. Your message insinuated that our troops have been abusing the use of white markings. This slanderous insinuation has no basis whatsoever. The place at which your planes attacked our delegation's lorry on August 7 was in fact on one of the two main highways between Kaisung and Pyongyang. The fact that after repeated violations by your side of the agreement you even make such slanderous assertions cannot but lead people to suspect that this action on the part of your side is not to be explained on any accidental grounds. The incidents in which your armed personnel fired on Panmunjon and your planes attacked the vehicle of our delegation have occurred one after another within a few hours. This raises in my mind a question whether or not these two incidents were deliberately created by your side. Once again I lodge a solemn protest with you regarding these repeated violations on August 7 of the agreement on the part of your side, and hope that you will guarantee that there will be no recurrence in the future of such incidents which violate the agreement.

(Signed)

GENERAL NAM IL,
*Chief of the Delegation of the Korean People's
Army and the Chinese people's volunteers.*

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