

## **November 7, 1967**

### **Statement by U Thant in First Committee of the UN General Assembly**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs Aleksei E. Nesterenko addresses the First Committee (Political and Security) of the General Assembly for Secretary-General U Thant. The statement concerns the United Nations Command in Korea from 7 July 1950 to 7 June 1963 and overviews the unified command under the United States, assistance of Member States, correspondences with the Security Council, and the detention of two United Nations Command officers.

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

C.V.

Action taken

I understand that S.G. 6/11  
has passed on to you the  
draft statement on the  
Unified Command in Korea  
which Mr. Nestoruk had  
sent up.

We are under great  
pressure in the Committee  
concerning this statement and  
I have had several enquiries  
concerning this. Will a  
statement be made and, if so,  
when? The debate is  
expected to conclude tomorrow  
morning and therefore it is  
essential that the statement  
be made, at the latest, first  
thing tomorrow morning.  
If S.G. is not making the  
statement I take it that he  
will ask Mr. Nestoruk to  
read the statement on his

participating. It further requested that the United States provide the Security Council with reports as appropriate on the course of action taken under the unified command.

"On 25 July 1950, at the 477th meeting of the Security Council, the representative of the United States informed the Council of an order dated 24 July to the effect that, in response to the Council resolution of 7 July, the President of the United States had designated General MacArthur Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces assisting the Republic of Korea and that, pursuant thereto, there had been established on 24 July the United Nations Command.

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IN OFFICIAL RECORD)

Press Release SG/SM/854  
GA/RS/1391  
7 November 1967

GENERAL U THANT

MEMBER

the Secretary-General, U Thant,  
y) of the General Assembly,  
, Under-Secretary for Political

y the distinguished representa-  
ting of the First Committee con-  
I have been instructed by the  
ment:

at its 476th meeting, the  
ded that all Members providing  
to the Security Council resolu-  
and other assistance available

It requested the United States  
authorized the unified command  
ag in the course of operations  
the flags of the various nations



behalf.

I shall be grateful  
if you will take the foregoing  
into account and do the  
needful - Thank.

Yours -

Mr C. F. Rasmussen

## UNITED NATIONS

Press Services  
Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/SM/854  
GA/RS/1391  
7 November 1967

TEXT OF STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL U THANT  
IN FIRST COMMITTEE ON 7 NOVEMBER

Following is the text of a statement by the Secretary-General, U Thant, in the First Committee (Political and Security) of the General Assembly, which was read today by Aleksei E. Nesterenko, Under-Secretary for Political and Security Council Affairs:

"In connexion with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Poland and Hungary at the 1516th meeting of the First Committee concerning the United Nations Command in Korea, I have been instructed by the Secretary-General to make the following statement:

"By a resolution adopted on 7 July 1950, at its 476th meeting, the Security Council, among other things, recommended that all Members providing military forces and other assistance pursuant to the Security Council resolutions of 25 and 27 June 1950, make such forces and other assistance available to a unified command under the United States. It requested the United States to designate the commander of such forces and authorized the unified command at its discretion to use the United Nations flag in the course of operations against North Korean forces concurrently with the flags of the various nations participating. It further requested that the United States provide the Security Council with reports as appropriate on the course of action taken under the unified command.

"On 25 July 1950, at the 477th meeting of the Security Council, the representative of the United States informed the Council of an order dated 24 July to the effect that, in response to the Council resolution of 7 July, the President of the United States had designated General MacArthur Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces assisting the Republic of Korea and that, pursuant thereto, there had been established on 24 July the United Nations Command.

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"Subsequently combatant units were provided by the following sixteen Member States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, five nations, Denmark, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden, supplied medical units. The Republic of Korea placed all its military forces under the Unified Command on 15 July 1950. Following the signing of the Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953, the contingents of nearly all the contributing countries were progressively either withdrawn or reduced. Most of the contributing countries which are still represented maintain in Korea only military liaison officers attached to the United Nations Command.

"During the course of the hostilities, the United States regularly submitted reports on the course of action in the area to the Security Council and, on occasion, to the General Assembly. The United States continued to submit these reports following the removal of the item 'Complaint of Aggression upon the Republic of Korea' from the list of matters of which the Council was seized, by a decision adopted unanimously on 31 January 1951 at the 551st meeting.

"In a note dated 3 December 1953 (S/3148), the representative of the United States transmitted the Seventy-Fifth Report of the United Nations Command in accordance with the Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950 (S/1588). The report states, among other things, that since the beginning of the United Nations collective action in Korea, the United Nations Command had submitted bi-weekly reports on its activities to the United Nations. In addition, special supplementary reports had been submitted on appropriate occasions. In general, the substance of the bi-weekly command reports had been concerned with the conduct of the military operations in Korea. The communication concluded that in the light of the armistice in Korea which had brought about a reduction in the activities of the United Nations Command, there did not appear to be the same need for making bi-weekly reports. However, the Command would continue to fulfil its obligations under the Security Council resolution of 7 July 1950 by rendering reports from time to time as appropriate on the activities undertaken in implementation of the Armistice Agreement.

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"In addition to the report from the United Nations Command transmitted to the President of the Security Council in a United States letter dated 2 November 1967 (S/8217), it would appear that the last report from the United Nations Command addressed to the Security Council by the representative of the United States was dated 11 March 1954 (S/3185). This transmitted the Seventy-sixth Report of the United Nations Command and covered the period 16-31 August 1953, one month after the conclusion of the Armistice Agreement.

"The last report brought to the General Assembly was a note verbale dated 29 December 1963 from the Permanent Representative of the United States transmitting a special report of the Unified Command (A/5641) concerning the detention in North Korea of two officers of the United Nations Command.

"Meanwhile the United States kept the Security Council informed of the successive appointment of the Commanding Generals of the United Nations Command. The last such communication was dated 7 June 1963 (S/5327)."

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