



Security Council

17 FEBRUARY

FEB 23 1988

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.2792

17 February 1988

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 17 February 1988, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. WALTERS

(United States of America)

Members: Algeria

Mr. ACHACHE

Argentina

Mr. DELPECH

Brazil

Mr. ALLEN CAR

China

Mr. LI Luye

France

Mr. BLANC

Germany, Federal Republic of

Mr. VERGAU

Italy

Mr. BUCCI

Japan

Mr. KAGAMI

Nepal

Mr. RANA

Senegal

Mr. SARRE

Union of Soviet Socialist

Mr. BELONOGOV

Republics

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Mr. BIRCH

Yugoslavia

Mr. PEJIC

Zambia

Mr. ZUZE

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the Security Council.

Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, within one week, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/19488)

LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/19489)

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with decisions taken by the Council at its 2791st meeting, I invite the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the representative of the Republic of Korea to take places at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pak (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) and Mr. Choi (Republic of Korea) took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Bahrain in which he requests to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Shakar (Bahrain) took the place reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: The Security Council will now resume its consideration of the second item on its agenda.

I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/19507, which contains a letter dated 16 February 1988 from the Charge d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

The representative of Japan has asked to speak in order to make a further statement and I now call on him.

Mr. KAGAMI (Japan): With reference to the statement made yesterday by the North Korean representative, I should like to make a further statement.

First of all the North Korean representative alleged that

"The deliberate involvement of the Japanese authorities in the KAL incident is ... proved ..." (S/PV.2791, p. 58)

and that

"The Japanese authorities cannot conceal the fact that they actively joined the United States and the south Korean rulers in faking the false drama of the KAL incident ...". (S/PV.2791, p. 59-60)

As I stated yesterday, Japan was in fact one of the victims of this incident in that the North Korean agents pretended to be Japanese nationals. Had their true identities not been revealed, the good relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea very possibly could have been seriously harmed.

I also made it clear yesterday that the Government of Japan itself gathered information and conducted its own investigation, and on the basis of its findings came to the independent conclusion that this incident was in fact caused by North Korea.

Thus the allegation made by the North Korean representative is totally unfounded and not even worth refuting.

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

Next I should like to comment on the allegation that "the Japanese Embassy [in Bahrain], at the request of the South Korean Embassy, asked the [Bahrain authorities] to hold the [couple in question]" (S/PV.2791, p. 43)

and, further, that

"in planning this incident Japan and the Republic of Korea agreed that the couple would not be extradited to Japan".

My delegation rejects these charges as entirely groundless. Upon receiving the information that KAL Flight 858 had disappeared, local Japanese embassies made a check of the relevant passenger lists and ascertained that the man and the woman, who appeared to be Japanese, boarded in Baghdad and disembarked in Abu Dhabi. Upon inspecting the passport applications and related documents, the Government of Japan found the woman's passport to be a forgery. Japan therefore requested the Bahrain authorities to question her at the airport. While being questioned in the presence of Japanese embassy personnel, the couple attempted to commit suicide.

Japan received no request from the Republic of Korea to waive extradition of the woman. In view of the fact that the destroyed passenger aircraft was registered with the Republic of Korea and of the losses sustained by the Republic of Korea in this incident which took 115 innocent lives, we consider that Bahrain's decision to extradite the woman to the Republic of Korea was entirely justifiable.

The North Korean representative quoted from various articles carried in Japanese newspapers and magazines.

My delegation would like to point out that freedom of speech is guaranteed in Japan by its Constitution. The Japanese media conduct their activities freely and they alone are responsible for what they report. The views are totally independent of those of the Government.

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

My delegation could not help but notice that the North Korean representative was highly selective in quoting from articles in the Japanese press. Not surprisingly he quoted only those he found useful in supporting his position. I should like to point out that those articles are greatly outnumbered in the Japanese press by reports that concur with the findings of the Government of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The North Korean representative made the assertion that Japan maintains a hostile attitude towards North Korea. This runs counter to reality. In fact, Japan's basic policy as it relates to the Korean peninsula is to maintain and strengthen its friendly and co-operative relations with the Republic of Korea while maintaining exchanges with North Korea at the private level in economic, cultural and other fields.

This basic policy towards North Korea does not preclude Japan's determination to condemn an act of terrorism perpetrated by North Korea. On the contrary, the Government of Japan is convinced that a firm stance against acts of terrorism will contribute to peace and security in the region.

The North Korean representative made reference to Japan's alleged militarism and moves to re-invade Asian countries.

The basic position of the Japanese Government has been repeatedly made clear: Japan will never again become a military Power. It will firmly adhere to this position. Thus the North Korean allegation that Japan is intensifying moves towards the re-invasion of its Asian neighbours is entirely groundless.

Japan in fact maintains friendly relations with a great number of Asian countries and is determined to promote further such relationships.

The North Korean representative stated that in Japan organizations and schools managed by Koreans sympathetic to North Korea are continually raided and that the safety of Korean nationals and students is threatened. This is a gross

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

exaggeration. Whenever any prejudicial and abusive acts are taken against Korean nationals or students in Japan, the competent authorities of Japan take correct measures in accordance with laws and regulations.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): First I should like to congratulate the United States upon its assumption of the presidency. As you know, Mr. President, you can rely on the co-operation of my Mission in carrying out your duties.

I should also like to express our thanks to Sir Crispin Tickell, who presided over the Council in January. I wish to reaffirm to our colleague from Japan, Ambassador Kagami, the deep friendship we feel for him and to tell him how very pleased we are today to welcome him to the Council.

Mr. President, yesterday you mentioned our late colleague, Mrs. Nora Astorga Gadea, and expressed condolences on behalf of the Council. My delegation and I wish to associate ourselves to what you said. Indeed, in her we found a colleague possessing great talents. Her fervent and consistent dedication to her country made a great impression on us. She was a very charming and kind young woman, but she was also an excellent diplomat who was a great credit to her country and its administration. Finally, I should like to add that confronted with an insuperable problem - that of illness - she gave us all a great example of dignity and courage.

My country has always resolutely condemned all acts of terrorism - whatever their form, whoever their perpetrators or whatever the reasons for their perpetration. The tragic events we all too often witness have taught us that no country is safe from the scourge of terrorism. The international community has become increasingly aware of the need for co-operation in combating terrorism.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

The United Nations General Assembly, in adopting resolution 40/61, demonstrated the unanimous, unequivocal condemnation by all States of any acts of terrorism. To us, that resolution represented great progress, as did Security Council resolution 579 (1985).

Various other international bodies can contribute to arousing this awareness that should induce States to take every step that they can take to discourage and prevent the repetition of such tragedies. For its part, as members of the Security Council know, France is committed to a vigorous policy of co-operation in combatting terrorism in the multilateral forums where it is present - in particular, those forums that have the competence to deal with acts involving international civil aviation. My Government, furthermore, believes that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), whose Council has just been seized of this matter, is the obvious body to deal with acts like the one that we are considering today.

Over and above our concern at the tragedy of the loss of human lives, we are very disturbed about the serious consequences of such acts on the maintenance and development within the international community of friendly relations and stable co-operation. Accordingly, the French authorities condemned the particularly heinous criminal attack against a Korean civilian aircraft on 29 November 1987. That attack, which caused the loss of so many human lives, aroused great concern and rightful indignation in my country. The Government of France has taken note of the results of the official investigation and the indications that a north Korean was implicated in the incident. It has vehemently denounced, and continues to denounce, those responsible for this deliberate massacre, this unjustifiable act.

Our thoughts are of the innocent victims and their families, as well as the Korean people. I wish again to express our sympathy to that people, so cruelly afflicted by this tragedy.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

We are even more deeply affected by this distressing incident and even more resolved to express our solidarity and friendship to Korea because this is a time when its people, with their well-known enthusiasm, competence and determination, are preparing to serve as hosts in Seoul to the Olympic games, which embody for the international community this ideal of a world where force repudiates violence, where all the energies of youth are joined and where courage is channelled solely to the promotion of peace.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom): It is a great pleasure for my delegation to have you, Sir, as our President for February. We know that you will guide the work of the Security Council with just the right mixture of diplomatic skill, military discipline and linguistic dexterity.

My delegation shares the sadness that you have already expressed, Mr. President, on the loss of Nora Astorga. We heard her often in this Chamber, and we remember her as a brave and talented representative of Nicaragua.

Finally, I should like to extend a warm welcome to our new Japanese colleague.

The Council is meeting today as a result of an act of terrorism which cost the lives of many people. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the 115 persons who died in the mid-air explosion of Korean Air flight 858 on 29 November last year. It is particularly disturbing that the findings of the investigation into the crash undertaken by the Republic of Korea clearly point to the involvement of North Korea in this outrage. The British Government has already expressed its horror at and condemnation of this particularly heinous act. We urge that all those responsible be brought to trial in accordance with due process of law.

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

The stability of the Korean peninsula, in which the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, has been heavily engaged since 1950 is vital for the stability and peace of the region as a whole. Criminal acts such as the reckless destruction of KA-858 seriously endanger that stability.

It must therefore be the aim of all of us to work together to combat terrorism. The Security Council has a responsibility to give a lead to the international community in this area and it is right that today we should consider ways to give real effect to the condemnation of "terrorism in all its forms, wherever and by whomsoever committed" - as contained in the statement by the President of the Security Council on 9 October 1985 (S/PV.2618, p.2).

Britain, sadly, is no stranger to the activities of terrorists. Our policy towards terrorism has developed out of bitter experience. The British Government condemns all acts of terrorism and is determined to deal firmly with them. We will not make concessions under duress to terrorists or their sponsors. Terrorists must be caught and brought to justice whenever and wherever they commit a terrorist act. We have played a full and active part in the various international organizations involved in the discussion of terrorism, ranging from the European Community to the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. Here in the United Nations we played our part in the discussions leading to the adoption last year of General Assembly resolution 42/159, which built on the consensus established in 1985 by resolution 40/61. Furthermore, the Security Council adopted resolution 579 (1985) on the taking of hostages, and we urge all Member States to act in conformity with that resolution.

It is vitally important that the international community should co-operate closely to combat terrorism. Both Security Council resolution 579 (1985) and General Assembly resolution 40/61 emphasized the importance of States becoming

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

party to the existing international Conventions relating to various aspects of international terrorism, including those relating to the safety of civil aviation. I should like to underline this again today. It is vital, of course, that States parties to the various Conventions comply with their obligations under them in good faith. I should also like to underline the importance which we attach to the work of the International Civil Aviation Organization to strengthen the safety of international civil aviation.

Words are not enough. We must also work together to ensure that consistent and effective measures are taken to combat terrorism. Patient, determined, tenacious action combining national measures with international co-operation is required. The international community must make a determined effort to bring to an end all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in accordance with the established principles of international law.

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

Finally let me return to the origin of this tragic incident: the tensions in the Korean peninsula. What is needed there is restraint, dialogue and the support of the United Nations - not pointless and destructive acts such as the one we are discussing. I pay tribute to the restraint the Government of the Republic of Korea has shown in its handling of this question. Their measured response and their attempt to seek constructive action through United Nations institutions and in accordance with the Charter is one of the few shafts of light in this dark episode.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his kind words addressed to me. I am not so ambitious as to believe that any degree of military discipline is possible in a body as vigorous and independent as the Security Council.

Mr. PEJIC (Yugoslavia): First of all, although you, Mr. President, have expressed condolences on behalf of the Council on the untimely death of our dear colleague Nora Astorga-Gadea, I feel that on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation I should express our deepest sorrow and grief at the untimely passing of a very able Ambassador of Nicaragua and a dear friend. Nora Astorga-Gadea will be remembered in these chambers and in this Organization not only as an extremely capable and successful representative of Nicaragua, her country, in presenting the views of Nicaragua in this Organization, but also as an exceptional and great human being. Because of her human qualities, she conquered the sympathy, I would say, of all of us in this Organization. We of the Yugoslav delegation will long cherish her memory.

I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the duties of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February. We are confident that under your guidance, because of your well known political experience and diplomatic skill and your vast knowledge of political affairs, the Council will continue to fulfil its responsible tasks successfully.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

I would ask Ambassador Birch to convey to Sir Crispin Tickell, Ambassador of the United Kingdom, our deep appreciation for his exceptional, wise and effective conduct of the Council's deliberations during the month of January, in the course of which very complex and delicate issues were on our agenda.

I should like to welcome our new colleague from Japan and to assure him of our readiness to co-operate with him very closely.

The disaster that befell KAL Flight 858, which is the subject on our agenda, took a heavy toll, 115 human lives. Yugoslavia is deeply grieved at this great and tragic loss. We wish to convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the catastrophe.

The incident has caused grave concern among the international public. That is only natural considering the circumstances in which it occurred - all the more so since it is claimed that the plane crashed as the consequence of a terrorist act.

Yugoslavia condemns most strongly this senseless act, as well as all similar acts, methods and practices of international terrorism, regardless of by whom they are committed, and whatever their motives may be. We do so out of a deep conviction that the phenomenon of international terrorism is one of the most serious evils of the contemporary world threatening international co-operation and normal relations among States, which is the essential prerequisite for the solution of all major issues in today's world.

Over more than 40 years, my country and its citizens have been victims of several hundred terrorist acts. We have therefore been fully aware of all the dangerous dimensions of this problem, which we have pointed out for a number of decades now. Yugoslavia has been a staunch advocate of effective measures in the struggle against international terrorism, and has been in favour of meting out the severest punishment to the perpetrators of such acts. We have constantly been involved in, and made a maximum contribution to, combating international

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

terrorism. We stand ready, and call for the strengthening of international co-operation in order to detect and prevent terrorist acts in time and effectively. International co-operation is imperative for the successful suppression and eradication of all forms of international terrorism. Proceeding from these positions, Yugoslavia has established close co-operation with almost all the countries of the world and appropriate institutions involved in combating international terrorism. We readily extended co-operation also in this particular case when, through friendly countries, the Republic of Korea requested it.

Following the tragic crash of KAL Flight 858, Yugoslavia demonstrated full readiness to co-operate most closely in order to clarify this case. We are interested in having all relevant facts established and clarified. The report submitted to us raises a number of issues that have yet to be explained. In the meantime, while reliable answers on these issues remain pending, we shall maintain that the document contains the assertions and conclusions of one side only. It is therefore our opinion that before all the relevant facts are explained our debate ought not to lead us to draw premature conclusions and issue any condemnations. We are also of the opinion that our debate should not result in the exacerbation of the existing contradictions on the Korean peninsula, since that would not be in the interest of the Korean people and peaceful settlement in that region of the world, to which I believe the Security Council is willing to contribute.

Immediately after the release of the information that prior to the disaster the suspects had spent a few days also in Belgrade, the competent Yugoslav authorities, in pursuance of their international obligation, conducted a thoroughgoing investigation in order to ascertain all the circumstances under which the alleged abuse of Yugoslav territory by foreign nationals suspected to be terrorists had taken place. Because of its own security, as well as its principled condemnation of terrorism, Yugoslavia is interested in seeing all the facts

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

established as to how the KAL Flight 858 disaster occurred. We are closely co-operating with Interpol in establishing those facts. The details of this investigation so far are known and have been carried by the Yugoslav information media.

It has been established that the suspects arrived in Belgrade from Vienna on 23 November 1987 with Japanese passports. They resumed their flight to Bahrain via Baghdad and Abu Dhabi on 28 November. Lacking any prior warning and intelligence, those persons were accorded equal treatment with the numerous other foreign visitors who enjoy full freedom of entry and movement in Yugoslavia. May I say that only last year 60 million people visited Yugoslavia.

(Mr. Pejic, Yugoslavia)

On the suspects' departure from Belgrade, they and their hand baggage, their only possessions, passed through the customary strict airport inspection, carried out with the use of the most modern devices, including those for the detection of explosives. Before they boarded the aircraft their hand baggage was additionally checked by the personnel of the foreign airliner aboard which they left Belgrade.

Yugoslavia has always taken energetic measures to prevent its territory from being used for the commission of terrorist acts, no matter by whom or for what purposes. It will continue to take the necessary measures in this case in accordance with its positive laws and the norms of international law. Definite action will be taken pending the results of investigations, to the success of which we shall strive to make our full contribution.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Yugoslavia for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. DELPECH (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): Although you spoke deeply-felt words yesterday, Mr. President, on behalf of all the members of the Council in tribute to the memory of Ambassador Nora Astorga, I wish to take this opportunity to express my Government's condolences on the passing of the distinguished Permanent Representative of Nicaragua. Ambassador Nora Astorga left a deep impression on this Organization. Those of us who had the privilege of working with her saw the dedication and conviction with which she represented her country and the dignity and courage with which she faced her cruel illness. As a colleague from Latin America and a personal friend, I ask the delegation of Nicaragua to transmit to its Government and Ambassador Astorga's family the deep regrets of the Government of Argentina and the members of our Mission.

I wish to express to you, Sir, my delegation's pleasure at seeing you preside over our work this month. We are convinced that your long diplomatic experience

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

and your outstanding personal qualities, including a thorough knowledge of Spanish, among other languages, will make it possible for us to achieve substantial progress.

We also wish to say that we are grateful to Ambassador Tickell for his leadership of the Council, when, with his customary skill, he presided over its meetings in the very active month that began the year.

Finally, on behalf of our delegation I welcome the new representative of Japan, Ambassador Kagami. We are pleased to be able to work with a colleague of his qualifications and with such a distinguished background in this Organization.

The item that has brought us together today has rightly aroused concern in the international community. That concern is shared in a special way by our Government, which on 28 January issued a communiqué on the subject, stating:

"Last November the Argentine Republic learned with deep regret of the loss of Korean Air Flight 858 bound for Seoul from Abu Dhabi with 115 passengers and crew on board.

"Recent information about the disappearance of the aircraft suggests that it was caused by a bomb exploding before the plane reached its final destination.

"The Argentine Government is deeply disturbed by the incident. It wishes to reiterate its condemnation of this act of sabotage and terrorism, and urges the international community to take concrete measures to prevent a repetition of such acts in future."

We believe that we have an opportunity today to repeat the importance and urgency of the struggle against international terrorism and to stress that all States must co-operate in it. The United Nations unanimously committed itself to that struggle two years ago, when the General Assembly unequivocally condemned and

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

described as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism. In calling for the adoption of General Assembly resolution 40/61, which many delegations regard as the most important achievement of the fortieth anniversary year of the United Nations, we emphasized that that general agreement on the condemnation of international terrorism should be translated into effective action, both individual and concerted, in an atmosphere of international co-operation to eliminate its underlying causes and punish the perpetrators.

The Security Council has also declared itself very clearly on this subject. In the same year as the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/61 the Security Council condemned

"terrorism in all its forms, wherever and by whomsoever committed."

(S/PV.2618, p. 2)

Later, in its resolution 579 (1985), of 18 December 1985, it called for the development of even greater co-operation between States to formulate and adopt effective measures in accordance with the norms of international law to facilitate the prevention, prosecution and punishment of all acts of hostage-taking and abduction as manifestations of international terrorism.

We hope that this debate will result in an increased awareness of the overriding need to eliminate acts of terrorism and renew our commitment to act in a co-ordinated and firm way to that end.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): I thank the representative of Argentina for his very kind words about my presidency of the Security Council.

Mr. BUCCI (Italy): In the debate on 1 February I had the opportunity to convey our greeting to the United States delegation at the beginning of its month in the presidency and to congratulate the United Kingdom delegation on its presidency during January. Today I wish to express to you personally, Sir, our

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

best wishes for your leadership of the Council and to assure you of our best co-operation.

I also wish to extend a most heartfelt welcome to Ambassador Kagami, Permanent Representative of Japan, who has recently joined us in the Council.

My delegation joins the other speakers who have expressed deep sorrow on the premature passing away of our colleague Nora Astorga, a remarkable woman and a fine diplomat.

The attention of the Security Council is drawn in this debate to the circumstances that brought about the disappearance of the commercial passenger airliner, Korean Air Flight 858 of the Republic of Korea, while in flight over the Andaman Sea off the coast of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. In that tragic incident 115 people lost their lives. I should like first to express our sadness over those deaths and convey to the families of the victims our deeply-felt solidarity.

Beyond the sorrow caused by that tragic loss of life, the incident left the international community dismayed. The lack of convincing explanations at the technical and human level for the sudden disappearance of the aircraft engendered doubts as to the nature of the events as well as uncertainties about the safety of flight. That led to the investigation that has brought the case to the attention of the Security Council today. The sensitivity of international public opinion to the problem of terrorism suggests that the Council should express its opinion on such a grave event, which unfortunately follows many similar occurrences in the past few years.

According to the findings of the investigation carried out by the authorities of the Republic of Korea, the tragic incident of KAL Flight 858 was intentionally planned. My delegation does not intend to go into the merits of the inquiry - that

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

is, to express a judgement on the facts that led to the loss of the aircraft. We believe that the Council can express a conclusive opinion only on the basis of undisputed circumstances or of circumstances emerging from an autonomous inquiry by the Council itself. This is a general legal principle which, in the opinion of my delegation, can also apply to an organ of a political nature like the Security Council.

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

However, the fact remains that the 29 November 1987 incident, the mystery that surrounded it and the very serious doubts it raised have created a case that affects the safety of air travel and makes people wary of traveling by air. As a State party to the Tokyo Convention of 17 September 1963, the Hague Convention of 16 December 1970 and the Montreal Convention of 23 September 1971, Italy is firmly committed to the international protection of air flight safety.

The concern that such a grave act could be attributed to a State and thus represent a new kind of threat to air travel causes dismay and elicits our condemnation.

Terrorism is contrary to the principles of the United Nations. Those principles aim at solving conflicts and divergences of opinion in a spirit of understanding and through dialogue. Allow me to recall that by its resolutions 40/61 of 9 December 1985 and 42/159 of 7 December 1987 the General Assembly reaffirmed the will of Member States to prevent terrorism as a threat not only to innocent human lives but also to friendly relations among States.

The support given to those resolutions reflects the political commitment of the international community to use all available means to prevent acts of terrorism. Italy shares that commitment: The condemnation of the incident under discussion has been reiterated by the Italian Government in a statement dated 22 January 1988, and by the 12 member countries of the European Community on 26 January 1988.

This debate presents us with the opportunity to confirm our abhorrence of terrorism. We trust that the resonance of the present debate will again draw the attention of Member States and of international public opinion to what can and must be done to fight terrorism. Whatever its causes, terrorism is unanimously condemned by the conscience of mankind and by the rules of civilized life.

(Mr. Bucci, Italy)

We hope that this tragic incident will not add further elements of conflict between two countries that have so much in common and which should look to their future with mutual trust and understanding. We also hope that this event will not increase hostility and mistrust between them on the eve of the Olympic Games, an event which should constitute an occasion for strengthening peoples' sense of belonging to one human community.

In that context, we have taken note with pleasure and confidence of the constructive statement made in the course of this debate by His Excellency Kwang Soo Choi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Italy for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. BELONOBOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to begin by expressing my great sorrow at the untimely demise of our friend and colleague the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations, Ambassador Nora Astorga Gadea. A great person, a revolutionary, a genuine fighter, and a talented diplomat who certainly enjoyed everyone's respect here at the United Nations has passed away. On behalf of the Soviet delegation I convey our profound condolences to the people of Nicaragua and to the family of Nora Astorga.

I wish also to take this opportunity to welcome the new Permanent Representative of Japan, Ambassador Kagami, and to wish him success in his work at the United Nations.

The air catastrophe that caused the death of over 100 people was unquestionably a tragic event. In that connection we cannot fail to convey our condolences to the families of the victims.

However, the Soviet delegation has stated its grave misgivings about the appropriateness of discussing the catastrophe that befell the South Korean aircraft

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

at a meeting of the Security Council. The course of the discussion has served only to confirm our suspicion that this question was raised with the primary aim of using the Council as a platform from which to level political accusations.

I must immediately stress that the Soviet Union's position on the question of international terrorism is clear and unequivocal: The Soviet Union has always opposed international terrorism in all its manifestations, and continues to do so. There must be no doubts about that. We have condemned and continue to condemn those who are guilty of committing terrorist acts.

But in the Security Council Chamber we have observed a clear attempt to exploit the item brought to us for discussion as an instrument in a propaganda campaign. It is well known that this is not the first time that Seoul has tried to disparage the policy of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea before the international community. Typically, this time also, literally the day after the catastrophe, before any inquiry had been carried out, it attempted to place responsibility for the incident upon Pyongyang. The results of the so-called inquiry cited by the representative of South Korea does not contain any facts to support the accusations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As noted in the press and as reflected in the position of the Governments of many countries, those accusations clearly constitute an attempt to disparage the foreign policy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to divert attention from the steps being taken and the efforts being made by that Government with a view to guaranteeing peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and transforming it into a nuclear-free zone, to bringing about the withdrawal of United States troops from the South of the peninsula, and to establishing a dialogue between the North and South of Korea aimed at the reunification of the homeland on a peaceful, democratic basis.

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

As was emphasized in the statement made by the Korean Central News Agency of 15 January this year,

"The entire Korean people are now expecting that this year will be a historic year which will provide the opportunity of new change for national reconciliation and unity between the north and the south." (S/19492, annex,

p. 3)

That policy expressed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is also reflected in the concrete proposals that Government has made to achieve a peaceful and democratic unification of Korea free from outside interference. Last year, it suggested that there be a stage-by-stage movement towards détente in the Korean Peninsula and that military parity be achieved, with a significant reduction in armed forces on both sides and the cessation of United States-South Korea "Team Spirit" manoeuvres and other important militant manoeuvres. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decided upon the unilateral implementation of a cut of 100,000 in troop strength.

Another initiative in favour of peace was expressed in the New Year's address issued by the Government of that country, in which it was proposed to convene a conference between North and South with the participation of leaders of both sides and of representatives of all political parties, public organizations and social strata of the population.

We note that the hue and cry about the aircraft incident raised by the Republic of Korea, as is becoming increasingly clear, was timed to use the idea of a growing external threat to justify the decision to heighten the preparedness of its army. It is no accident that the results of the so-called inquiry that was carried out were published soon after the People's Democratic Republic of Korea made a new major initiative to renew inter-Korean dialogue and to cut back

(Mr. Belonogov, USSR)

radically the armed forces of both sides. We may therefore rightly ask what the intentions of the Republic of Korea conceal? Are we not witnessing an intent to divert attention from the new initiatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, aimed at achieving national agreement and reducing tension in the Korean peninsula?

As we see it, it would be extremely dangerous in these circumstances to allow ourselves to be deceived by political manoeuvres. We believe that it is the role of the Security Council not to hamper international efforts designed to improve the situation in the Korean peninsula, to develop dialogue and to create conditions that might lead to peace and stability in the region.

The PRESIDENT: The next speaker is the representative of Bahrain. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. AL-SHAKAR (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): I should like first to thank you, Mr. President, and, through you, the other members of the Security Council for responding to my delegation's request to participate in this debate. I should also like to extend to you my delegation's sincere congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of February 1988. I should like to express to you my full confidence that your well-known, rich and vast experience and diplomatic skills will enable you effectively to guide the work of the Council this month. I should also like to pay a well-deserved tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Sir Crispin Tickell, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, for the excellent manner in which he successfully conducted the Council's work during the month of January, one replete with business for the Council.

My delegation had not intended to speak on the question now before the Council regarding the tragedy in which a Korean Airlines civil aircraft, Flight 858, crashed during its scheduled flight, Baghdad-Abu Dhabi-Seoul. That painful

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

incident claimed the lives of all the plane's 115 innocent passengers. However, the statement made yesterday morning by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the 2791st meeting of the Council left my delegation with no choice other than to ask to speak in order to dot the i's and cross the t's.

The statement by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea included fabrications with regard to the role played by authorities in my country in the extradition of Ms. Hachiya Mayumi and handing over of the body of Hachiya Shinichi, who committed suicide, to the authorities in the Republic of Korea. The least that can be said about such allegations is that they have no basis in reality and are completely without foundation. No country that respects its international obligations can accept them or allow them to pass in silence. In addition to amazement and dismay, such allegations and fabrications also engender ridicule because of their utter baselessness.

Proceeding from that position, my delegation has requested to participate in this debate in a spirit of international responsibility dictated by the need to put the truth on record, by the provisions of international law and by the rules accepted by international custom regarding the implementation of international conventions to which my country is a party.

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

It is well known to all that on 29 November 1987 KAL Flight 858 disappeared, with 115 passengers on board. All attempts by the authorities of the Republic of Korea to locate the wreckage of the plane failed. It was believed that the plane crashed following a mid-air explosion in the air space over the Republic of Burma as the result of a terrorist act. Based on a preliminary investigation conducted by authorities of the Republic of Korea, suspicions focused on two Japanese travellers who had boarded the plane in its flight from Baghdad to Abu Dhabi, after which they boarded a Gulf airplane going from Abu Dhabi to Bahrain, my country.

Security authorities in Bahrain began investigating them after contacts and information provided by Republic of Korea authorities. On 1 December 1987 two persons carrying Japanese passports were arrested at the Bahrain International Airport. One of them was a 70-year-old man named Hachiya Shinichi and the other a 28-year-old woman called Hachiya Mayumi. As the security authorities and passport control officials at the airport discovered, their passports were forged. During the investigation at the airport they tried to commit suicide by taking poison. Actually the man died immediately, but it was possible to save Ms. Mayumi through emergency medical aid at one of Bahrain's hospitals.

Based on comprehensive investigations conducted by Bahrain security authorities it became clear that Shinichi and Mayumi had boarded the missing Korean plane flying from Baghdad to Abu Dhabi where they had disembarked and took a Gulf airplane to Bahrain. At the time they were arrested they were on their way out of the country.

The investigation conducted with regard to Ms. Hachiya Mayumi and the documents found in the possession of Shinichi and Mayumi revealed a link between them and the disappearance of the Korean aircraft.

The Bahraini authorities took all steps and actions provided for in the Convention relative to crimes and other offences committed aboard aircraft, which

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

was signed in Tokyo on 14 September 1963, and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal. Since my country is a party to these Conventions it conducted a preliminary investigation into the facts and immediately contacted the nearest representative of the State of which these people were believed to be nationals, namely, Japan. My country's authorities also notified the Republic of Korea since it was the State against whose plane the crime was committed.

On 16 December 1987 the Government of the Republic of Korea officially requested of the Bahraini Foreign Ministry extradition of the perpetrators on the basis of its jurisdiction under the 1963 Tokyo Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention since the suspects had blown up a Korean Airlines aircraft. At the same time the Japanese Government informed the Bahraini Government that it understood the circumstances surrounding the incident and had no objection to handing over the suspect, Hachiya Mayumi, and the body of the suicide, Hachiya Shinichi, to the authorities in the Republic of Korea should the Government of Bahrain so consent.

Inasmuch as extradition is an act of sovereignty, the Government of Bahrain examined the request for extradition submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea very carefully. It then conveyed it to the juridical authorities in the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in Bahrain for examination of its form and content and for the extradition order to be issued after ascertaining the indictment of the two detainees whose extradition had been requested by the Korean authorities under the provisions of the 1963 Tokyo Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention and in conformity with international custom in this regard and with the jurisdiction of its courts to consider the case. After ascertaining the request the following became clear. First, the indictment was actually against the two detainees and was accompanied by charges. It contained sufficient evidence to bring

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

the accused to trial. The extradition request indicated the reasons on which the Republic of Korea based itself in submitting this request and the fact that Bahrain and the Republic of Korea were parties to the 1963 Tokyo Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention.

In light of these considerations the Government of Bahrain agreed to hand over Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi to the Government of the Republic of Korea inasmuch as that country's request was legally based on the following:

First the alleged crime committed by the suspects was one of the offences provided for in the 1963 Tokyo Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention under the provisions of the first of articles of each.

Second, the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Korea are parties to the 1963 Tokyo Convention and the 1971 Montreal Convention.

Third, according to the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 8 of the Montreal Convention, the acts committed by the suspects are considered to be extraditable crimes.

Fourth, despite the fact that there is no extradition treaty between the State of Bahrain and the Republic of Korea, paragraph 2, article 8 of the Montreal Convention provides that a legal basis for extradition exists with regard to crimes falling within its scope.

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

An additional fact is that extradition in this case was based on the principle of international co-operation in suppressing offences and unlawful acts against the safety of international aviation, and on the establishment of justice.

Fifth, the extradition of the suspects to the Republic of Korea was based on the general provisions of international law relating to the extradition of criminals - provisions which favour the extradition of criminals to the State on whose territory the crime was committed. Those provisions apply to the incident under consideration here. The crime committed on board a Korean Airlines aircraft is covered by article 16 of the Tokyo Convention of 1963.

Sixth, the Government of the Republic of Korea has jurisdiction under the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 3 of the 1963 Tokyo Convention, which stipulates that the State of registration of the aircraft is competent to exercise jurisdiction over offences and acts committed on board that aircraft. Moreover, paragraph 1 (b) of article 5 of the Montreal Convention of 1971 provides that a State has jurisdiction when the offence was committed against or on board an aircraft registered in that State.

Seventh, the State of Bahrain has no interest, direct or indirect, in insisting on its own jurisdiction regarding this crime.

Those legal considerations which I have just presented, and which are confirmed in international conventions and international law, prompted the Government of the State of Bahrain to extradite the suspects in the incident of the explosion of the Korean aircraft. There were no other considerations, political or otherwise, directed against the Government of any country. My Government has made no statement that could be construed as an accusation against any State. Hence, the Government of my country categorically rejects the allegations in the letter (S/19492) from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

as well as the allegations made in the statement at the Security Council's 2791st meeting, on 16 February 1988, by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the effect that the security authorities in Bahrain were threatened and received money as a bribe in return for extraditing Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi. Those allegations are pure fabrications; they have no basis in fact whatsoever and are completely in contradiction with the truth.

In this connection, I cannot but express my Government's and my delegation's gratitude for the words of appreciation spoken the other day by Mr. Choi Kwang Soo, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, and Ambassador Hideo Kagami, the Permanent Representative of Japan, in regard to my Government's co-operation in extraditing Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi.

I am submitting today to the Security Council a letter in regard to this matter. I shall now read out the text of that letter, which is addressed to the President of the Security Council:

"On instructions from my Government, I wish to refute the charges made in the letter of 10 February 1988 addressed to you by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and contained in document S/19492, as well as the statement made by the Permanent Observer to the Security Council at its 2791st meeting, on 16 February 1988, concerning the role of the Government authorities of the State of Bahrain in delivering the woman named Hachiya Mayumi and the body of the man named Hachiya Shinichi, who had committed suicide, to the authorities in the Republic of Korea. These charges are entirely without foundation."

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

"In this connection I should like to inform you that it has been proved beyond doubt in a comprehensive investigation undertaken by the authorities in Bahrain that the two individuals mentioned were involved in the explosion of the aircraft (flight 858) of the South Korean airline.

"In accordance with the Government of the State of Bahrain's international commitments under the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963, and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971, the Government Authorities of the State of Bahrain, having considered the request submitted by the Government of the Republic of Korea for the extradition of Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi, and having been informed by the Government of Japan that it had no objection to such action if the State of Bahrain likewise had no objection, delivered Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi to the Government authorities of the Republic of Korea in conformity with the provisions of those two Conventions.

"Accordingly, the Government of my country categorically rejects the allegations contained in the aforementioned letter, and those voiced by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to the effect that it was as a result of threats and bribery that Mayumi and the body of Shinichi were handed over. Such lies and calumnies, besides arousing astonishment and disapproval, also give rise to condemnation and scorn, since they constitute totally baseless fabrications.

"I should also like to affirm, on behalf of my Government, that the woman concerned, who appeared on television in the Republic of Korea, and the confessions she made with respect to her involvement in the explosion of the

BCT/jg

S/PV.2792

44-45

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

Korean aircraft, are identical to the information acquired and to the individual detained by the security authorities in Bahrain.

"I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council."

I wished to read out the text of that letter for the information of members of the Council because it is being submitted in Arabic and I believe that its translation into the other language versions may take some time.

The States parties to international conventions are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the rule of law in international relations.

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

Respect for its basic principles is a prerequisite for the establishment of a stable and just world order. On that basis the Government of the State of Bahrain extradited Miss Hachiya Mayumi and the body of Hachiya Shinichi to the authorities of the Republic of Korea, having ascertained beyond a doubt their involvement in the explosion on the aircraft on the basis of the investigation and the available evidence.

The Government of Bahrain extradited them as a State that loves justice and peace, as a State responsible to its people and to the international community for the promotion of peace and the establishment of justice in accordance with international conventions, and also on the basis of its Islamic belief and heritage. Immortal Islamic injunctions and Islamic law have established lofty values and just criteria for relations among all people. Islamic law prohibits the terrorizing of innocents and aggression against their property and their lives. It forbids the murder of man, which God has placed above all his other creations. The Almighty said, "Take not life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law".

I need not remind the Council that the Government of Bahrain has repeatedly condemned terrorist activities, whether committed by individuals, groups or States, directed against the safety of civil aviation. It is our conviction that such practices jeopardize relations among States.

I do not want to conclude without expressing my country's belief in the importance of the role of the United Nations in creating an atmosphere of mutual confidence and co-operation among States having different ideological and political systems. Given the great differences among the various social and political systems and ideologies prevailing in the world, the United Nations remains a protector and a beacon that dispels the spectre of confrontation and war among

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

States. My delegation hopes that this debate will contribute to that end.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Bahrain for his kind words addressed to the other members of the Council and to me. I would ask the Secretariat to circulate his letter to all the members of the Council.

Mr. LI LUYE (China) (interpretation from Chinese): At the outset please allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I am convinced that under your guidance the Security Council will certainly fulfil its tasks this month with success.

I wish also to express my appreciation for the outstanding work done by Ambassador Tickell, who presided over the Council last month.

The Chinese delegation was deeply shocked to learn of the untimely passing of Ambassador Nora Astorga-Gadea of Nicaragua. On behalf of the Chinese Government I convey deepest condolences to the Government and people of Nicaragua and to her family.

I should like to take this opportunity warmly to welcome the new Ambassador of Japan.

On 29 November last year, Flight 858 of the South Korean airline crashed over the territorial waters of Burma, causing the death of all 115 people aboard. I would like to take this opportunity to express our profound sympathy to the families of the victims.

On this incident both the South Korean side and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have issued statements setting forth their respective arguments. At the Council's informal consultations on 12 February I expressed the opinion that under the present circumstances consideration of this question by the Security Council could only lead to the intensification of the tense atmosphere

(Mr. Li Luye, China)

between the North and the South and would not be conducive to the relaxation of tension and to stability on the Korean peninsula.

The Chinese Government's position of opposing international terrorism is unequivocal. We hope that the situation on the Korean peninsula will move towards relaxation and that the tragic incident of the South Korean air liner will not lead to aggravation. We are of the view that only by reducing military confrontation and increasing contacts and dialogue between the North and the South can the tense situation on the peninsula be relaxed. In this regard the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made a number of constructive proposals. It is our hope that the parties concerned will respond to them positively and make efforts to reduce the tension on the Korean peninsula.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. RANA (Nepal): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, most warmly on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this calendar month. Aware as we are of your many personal qualities and rich diplomatic experience, we are confident you will lead the work of the Council with customary skill.

I take this opportunity also to express my delegation's deep appreciation to your predecessor, Sir Crispin Tickell of the United Kingdom, for the outstanding manner in which he guided the deliberations of the Council through a very busy and difficult month.

May I also join with you, Mr. President, and other friends in expressing my delegation's heartfelt condolences to the delegation of Nicaragua on the untimely passing of Ambassador Nora Astorga-Gadea. She was a distinguished diplomat and a person of understanding and warmth, and will be sadly missed by her colleagues at the United Nations.

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

My delegation has the pleasure to welcome the new Permanent Representative of Japan, His Excellency Hideo Kagami, and looks forward to working in close co-operation with him.

As regards the matter at hand, I wish at the very beginning to emphasize that Nepal supported the request for a Security Council meeting on the Korean Airline incident of 29 November 1987 primarily because of our principled position that every nation has the right to bring to the attention of the Security Council or the General Assembly any situation that it feels is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, as envisaged in Article 34 of the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

Another important consideration that persuaded my delegation to support putting the item on the Council's agenda was that a Council meeting would give the international community an opportunity to be fully and authoritatively informed about the tragic incident. However, convinced that a long and acrimonious debate on the issue would not serve the interest of peace and stability in the region, my delegation supported the initiative of non-aligned members of the Council to confine the debate, as far as possible, to the parties directly concerned. In proposing this, we certainly did not intend to restrict the right of any Member State to participate in the debate. We continue to hope that exchanges will be well within the bounds of reason and restraint. We are therefore gratified that the Council will not be required to take any specific action at the close of the debate.

In view of the many references made in this discussion to the scourge of terrorism, I wish to stress that Nepal has always condemned terrorism, in all its manifestations - including State-sponsored terrorism - directed against innocent persons. On this occasion, I recall that Nepal is a signatory of the 1971 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation. It is also an active participant in the anti-terrorism convention adopted by the seven member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) in Kathmandu last November.

Nepal could therefore go along with any concerted international effort to combat international terrorism and to ensure greater safety of civil aviation and innocent passengers.

I should like at this point to express, on behalf of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, sympathy to the Government of the Republic of Korea on the loss of the ill-fated aircraft and heartfelt condolences to all members of the bereaved families.

(Mr. Rana, Nepal)

Nepal enjoys friendly and co-operative relations with both Koreas. We therefore still entertain the hope that the polemics of this debate will neither permanently affect the prospects for the peaceful reunification of Korea nor - in the shorter-term - for the peaceful holding of the Olympic Games in Seoul later this year.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Nepal for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. ZUZE (Zambia): Allow me, Sir, to express on behalf of the non-aligned members of the Security Council, as their co-ordinator for the month of February, and on behalf of my delegation, our deepest sympathy with the Government of Nicaragua and the bereaved family on the untimely passing away of Ambassador Nora Astorga, the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations. The gap which Ambassador Astorga has left in our midst will be deeply felt. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Let me join the many who have expressed their congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February. As always, we look forward to the traditional leadership which the country you represent has provided to the world over the years, and to the leadership that you personally provide. We feel comfortable with a senior military officer in the chair.

Your predecessor, Sir Crispin Tickell, was in our view a living example of fairness and firmness in his leadership qualities; ability to perform the balancing act between these two attributes is a very rare talent.

We also welcome the new Permanent Representative of the friendly people of Japan. We promise to work with him as we did with his predecessor in the struggle to achieve the goals for the attainment of which the United Nations was created.

(Mr. Zuze, Zambia)

My delegation asked to speak in order to put on record its views regarding the 29 November KAL 858 incident, which is the subject of the present series of meetings of the Council. We had hoped that there would be merely one informative meeting, at which only the two parties directly involved would speak, in accordance with the initiative of the non-aligned caucus. That, in our view, would have been the best approach.

Unfortunately, the circumstances of the initiative by the non-aligned caucus have changed. It would seem that the Council is now engaged in a full debate of the incident, whose circumstances are still dubious and unclear.

Let me at the outset express my delegation's view regarding the question of terrorism, which previous speakers have eloquently addressed in the course of this debate. Terrorism, whether pursued by an individual or a group of individuals in furtherance of an ill-defined cause - or by a State for the maintenance of a political status quo - is, of course, anathema to Zambia and we believe a menace to international peace and security. In this regard the Security Council should rightly be concerned by any events that would appear to undermine peace and security in the world.

It is clear to us that very little is known about the causes which led to the disappearance of KAL Flight 858 on 29 November last year. The documents so far presented to the Council in our view contain many contradictions, which could have been avoided by involvement of independent and impartial international bodies in the investigations. In this respect, we find it strange that no effort was made to seek the participation of competent international organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Moreover, it is incomprehensible that no attempts were made to locate the wreckage and to retrieve the black box. This failure by the investigators led to the loss of valuable information which

(Mr. Zuze, Zambia)

could have provided clues vital to the determination of the cause or causes of the incident.

It is our view that any attempt to pass judgement or apportion blame on the basis of available documents and information would be premature, and would constitute a very dangerous precedent for this body. For that reason we would associate ourselves with the view expressed by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany and others around this table that the Security Council would be better served if an independent investigation were conducted to establish the exact cause of the incident.

Let me conclude by expressing a deep sense of grief and sorrow at the tragic loss of innocent lives which was the culmination of this incident. We further express sincere condolences to the bereaved families of the 115 victims on board KAL Flight 858 before its disappearance.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Zambia for the kind words he addressed to my country and to me.

The next speaker is the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on whom I now call.

Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Let me state the position of my delegation concerning the remarks made by the representative of Japan. Japan cannot deny under any circumstances the stark reality that Japan was directly involved, and that it actively collaborated with the south Korean rulers them in staging the most criminal political plot of our times.

Let me set forth some information in addition to that I cited at yesterday's meeting.

The peoples of the world are suspicious of the inordinately desperate attitude of the south Koreans towards the issue of the couple's extradition, in sharp contrast to that of Japan, which had earlier insisted on its prior right to investigate the couple but which later abandoned its due right so easily. As of 14 December last year, neither evidence nor clues had been found to link the couple with the case of the missing KAL jetliner or to identify the nationality of "Mayumi", who produced a fake Japanese passport. Moreover, the plane - the sole material evidence to the disappearance of the KAL Flight 858 aircraft - has not been found, although a United States navy aircraft is reported to have found parts believed to be from the missing KAL jetliner.

Meanwhile, announcing on 9 December their plan to suspend the search for the missing aircraft, the south Korean authorities desperately insisted on the extradition of the suspicious couple, releasing a flood of so-called information to imply involvement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the case of the missing aircraft, putting forward circumstantial evidence. At the time of the

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

extradition, however, the only thing made clear was the fact that the couple used forged Japanese passports, which violated Japanese laws on forgery and on the use of official documents. World legal specialists pointed out that the incident had to be investigated to find the truth, in accordance with due legal procedures, and without being affected by the sentimentalism the Japanese Government exhibited when it said it had considered the national sentiment of south Korea because the lives of 115 passengers had been lost in the incident.

Specialists in Korean affairs indicated that a kind of political settlement may have been made between Seoul and Tokyo in connection with the extradition of the suspect couple, pointing to the following facts: First, the Bahrain Government had reiterated its intention to transfer the suspected man and woman to Japan, not to South Korea; secondly, there had been no apparent evidence linking the couple with the KAL incident; and, thirdly, they only possessed forged Japanese passports.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, on 2 December last year, insisted on Japan's prior right to investigate the couple, saying that they had forged Japanese passports and that his country was thus in a position to find the truth.

On 6 December, the Bahrain authorities reiterated their wish to extradite to Japan the man, who committed suicide, and the woman, saying that nobody could tell that KAL Flight 858 had faced terrorism and that no evidence had been found to link the woman with the disappearance of the KAL plane.

On 7 December, however, the Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary reversed his position and abruptly abandoned Japan's prior right to investigate the couple, saying that Japan would not request the extradition of the couple in spite of the fact that they had obviously violated Japanese sovereignty by using Japanese passports; this was in sharp contrast to Seoul's "earnest" action in sending a high-ranking envoy, and even a special plane, to Bahrain.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

The world public has pointed out that the credibility of the investigation will be much doubted if the legal foundation of the extradition is not made clear. It has also underlined the timing by which a United States navy P3 Orion patrol aircraft found what were called parts of KAL 858 on 11 December at a time when the Bahrain authorities were insisting on sending the couple to Japan and hesitating to transfer them to South Korea for the main reason that no wreckage had been found to prove that the KAL plane had crashed.

Historically, Japan has collaborated with the south Korean rulers whenever and wherever needed for political plots. When the south Korean authorities, having kidnapped Kim Dae Jung, tried to impute the blame for the kidnapping case to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Japanese authorities connived at this criminal act, even after they had confirmed through an on-the-spot survey that it had been committed by the south Korean authorities. In return for this, Japan widened the road of its comeback to south Korea. In the same way, Japan aims to get something in return for helping Roh Tae Woo in his election campaign by conniving at the incident of the missing Korean airliner.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Let me elaborate some of the dangerous aspects of Japanese militarism. There has not yet been a formal signing and announcement of a treaty on the aggressive United States-Japan-South Korea military alliance, but it actually exists and actively moves along the orbit of the Korean strategy and Asian strategy of the United States. The alliance is a product of the reactionary Asian strategy of the United States, and it increases the danger of war in Korea and aggravates the situation in Asia.

In forming the three-way military alliance with Japan and south Korea, under the cloak of collective security, the United States pursues, among other things, the aim of attaining military superiority in the Asian region and using the Japanese and south Koreans as a shock brigade in the invasion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and socialist countries. The United States, Japan and south Korea are closely linked with each other triangularly under the so-called security pact between the United States and Japan and the mutual defence treaty between the United States and south Korea, as well as treaties of a political and military nature that exist between Japan and south Korea. This proves that the triangular military-alliance system now exists in fact. The growing military potentials of the United States, south Korea and Japan in the north-east Asian region increases the real danger of the three-way military alliance.

The spearhead of the triangular military alliance is directed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. All the military moves are geared to it. The aggressive bases and forces targeted against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are being steadily reinforced in and around south Korea, and the United States forces and the south Korean army are there, ready to go into action at any moment.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

The Japan self-defence forces stationed in western Japan near the Korean peninsula are also ready to rush to the Korean front at any moment. All of the joint military exercises of the United States, Japan and south Korea are staged under the simulated conditions of a Korean war. All the facts go to prove that the triangular military alliance is, in fact, an aggressive military bloc against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other socialist countries.

My delegation would like to state its position with regard to the statement made by the representative of Bahrain just now. As was mentioned yesterday, the international agreements on the security of civil aviation stipulate that, with regard to a criminal who has endangered a plane or caused an incident in it, the country which has arrested the criminal has the top priority to investigate the incident, and the country of his nationality comes next. According to those agreements the country which has suffered cannot be given priority in the investigation over the country that arrested the criminal or the country of his nationality.

As is known, during the interrogation in Bahrain's prison the woman named Mayumi, with a Japanese passport, clearly stated that she had nothing to do with the KAL incident and had only toured Europe and the Middle East with Shinichi after receiving a passport from him.

It is common sense that, without scientific material evidence, a person cannot be treated as a criminal and cannot be extradited. My delegation therefore considers that it is an inexcusable, flagrant violation of international law for the Bahrain authorities to have transferred to the south Korean rulers the unidentified woman and the body of the dead man, neither of whom have yet been proved to be a culprit of the KAL incident, while expressing scepticism over the legitimacy of south Korea's demand for extradition. As the representative of

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Bahrain has just correctly stated, the sovereignty of a country is of very vital importance. What on earth can Bahrain, a sovereign nation, get from a conspiracy with the rulers of south Korea, which is just a colonial entity, in violation of international law? It is hardly understandable that Bahrain, which has no bilateral agreement with the south Korean rulers on extradition, should have given up its priority right to investigation and complied with their demand.

My delegation would like to express deep concern over and bitterly denounce the undisguised abnormal farce of the extradition in Seoul and Manama. By unjustifiably dealing with the transfer of the couple in compliance with the illegal demand of the south Korean rulers, the Bahrain authorities helped to extend the military régime in south Korea and created obstacles to democratization there, thereby endangering peace on the Korean peninsula. The Bahrain authorities must therefore bear due responsibility for it.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of the United States of America.

In the past decade we have witnessed numerous attacks against innocent unarmed civilians by terrorists whose sole objective is to draw attention to their cause. The Rome and Vienna airport massacres, the slaughter in an Istanbul synagogue, the carnage on a runway in Karachi, are a few reminders that the scourge of terrorism knows no bounds where its victims are concerned.

We know that terrorists cannot exist in a vacuum. They depend on States for vital support - indeed, States are often their very lifelines. Usually an attempt is made to keep hidden the hand of the State behind terrorist attacks. However, occasionally the hand becomes visible, as in the case before us.

What confronts us is a tragic event: the destruction of Korean Airlines

(The President)

Flight 858 and the death of all on board. My Government wishes to express its condolences to the bereaved families of those who died.

The reaction to that tragic event by the Republic of Korea has been measured and painstaking. The evidence that has come to light leaves no room for doubt that we are confronted by a criminal act of violence by North Korea against innocent civilians, which nothing can justify. North Korea has used the means of the terrorist to strike at its neighbour.

The evidence presented by the Republic of Korea is overwhelming. In the first place there is the confession by one of the individuals who committed the deed, a confession which is not only persuasive in its detail, but a confession by an individual the Government of the Republic of Korea is prepared to allow others to interview if they have any doubts. In addition to the confession there is ample circumstantial evidence ranging from the poisoned cigarettes used by the agents to attempt suicide to the detailed travel records that have emerged. Technical analysis of the suicide capsules used, by the way, shows the cyanide involved to be chemically identical to similar capsules used by North Korean agents in the past. Chemicals, like peoples and modes of operation, have their own fingerprints.

(The President)

While the evidence developed by the Republic of Korea is more than sufficient to lead to the conclusion that North Korea is responsible for the destruction of the aircraft, there is corroboration from other sources.

According to a public Japanese statement, the information needed to produce the forged Japanese passport used by Mr. Kim was obtained by an individual wanted in Japan as a North Korean agent.

United States experts have examined the documents and concluded that the forged passports are of such high quality that they were almost certainly prepared by a Government intelligence service. No terrorist group is known to have the capability to produce forgeries of this quality.

We know from non-Korean sources that Ms. Kim and her companion carried with them coded telephone numbers of North Korean Missions in both Vienna and Belgrade.

As part of her cover, Ms. Kim initially spoke Japanese and denied that she was Korean. However, in her subsequent public and private appearances she spoke fluent Korean with a North Korean accent.

Finally, United States officials showed Ms. Kim a large selection of photographs and asked her to identify anyone who had played a role in the bombing of Korean Air Flight 858. She identified two men known to the United States as North Korean agents. One of them is Hang Song-Sam, with whom she and her companion stayed in Budapest on this mission. The other is Yi Yong-Yok, the man she said gave her the order to bomb the airliner.

The Republic of Korea is to be commended for the great care it has taken in ascertaining the facts before making any accusations. The Republic of Korea is, furthermore, to be commended for the measured nature of its response once it became inescapably clear that North Korea bombed Korean Air Flight 858, causing the death of 115 people.

(The President)

Whatever may be said by those who apparently feel compelled to defend or cover up for North Korea - and we have heard some pretty preposterous efforts to this end - there can be no room for honest doubt as to what really happened.

It is our fervent hope that exposing the criminal nature of what happened and North Korea's responsibility will contribute to the recognition that such acts cannot be committed with impunity.

My country joins others in the international community in expressing outrage at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for this heinous attack on innocent civilians. The world cannot tolerate attacks on civil aviation as a means to harass a neighbour. We think it especially important that all civilized countries make it clear to North Korea that this uncivilized behaviour must not be repeated. The world cannot stand indifferent. Terrorism cannot be cost free, and there can be no green light to conduct further atrocities against innocent civilians.

Peace on the Korean peninsula is something in which this Organization has a particularly profound stake dating back almost to the founding of the United Nations. Actions such as the bombing of Korean Air Flight 858 make the Korean peninsula dangerously unstable and cannot be permitted.

That completes my statement on behalf of the United States.

I now resume my function as President of the Security Council.

The representative of Bahrain has asked to speak. I invite him to take a place at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. AL-SHAKAR (Bahrain) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation had not intended or even wished to participate in the debate concerning the issues before the Council. However, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has prompted me to speak as he once again before the Security Council levelled untrue and unacceptable accusations which my country totally rejects.

(Mr. Al-Shakar, Bahrain)

My country's Government, after having conducted a complete investigation of the incident and having made contacts with the Republic of Korea and Japan, has extradited "Hachiya Mayumi" and the body of "Hachiya Shinichi" to the authorities in the Republic of Korea for reasons I made clear in my statement and which I do not think necessary for my delegation or the members of this Council to hear them repeated. I do not want to waste this Council's valuable time.

I think that we all know very well what are the international commitments in accordance with international conventions. We all respect all commitments entered into under international conventions if we are parties to them, in particular the 1971 Montreal Convention and the 1963 Tokyo Convention, which made it possible for the party concerned to take all the necessary measures in order to extradite the suspects in case of evidence categorically proving the involvement of a suspect to the country where the crime was committed or aboard whose aircraft the crime was committed. In this case we extradited the suspect to the country concerned.

The provisions are explicit and crystal-clear and I need not repeat the provisions of the Convention on Crimes and other Acts Committed aboard Aircraft, signed in Tokyo on 14 September 1963, as well as the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed in Montreal on 13 September 1971. I have referred to both Conventions in my statement and would like members of the Council to refer to the articles mentioned in the statement I made this morning.

In accordance with the reasons and the articles of those Conventions, my country has extradited the body as well as "Mayumi". In this connection we reject any threats from any country or person, no matter whom, and we also reject the arguments put forward by the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the issue of extradition because they are invalid and contrary to these Conventions.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Japan has asked to speak, and I now call on him.

Mr. KAGAMI (Japan): The North Korean Permanent Observer once again has repeated his allegations and baseless accusations against Japan. The clear position of my Government to such unfounded allegations has already been stated and I therefore will not repeat it here, but simply say the following.

Japan is co-operating closely with the United States in the field of security, but this is only for the defence of my country; the North Korean assertion that it is of a reactionary or offensive nature is a groundless accusation, contrary to the facts.

(Mr. Kagami, Japan)

Japan enjoys friendly relations with the Republic of Korea, and it is the basic policy of my Government further to promote and strengthen these relations and thereby contribute to peace and stability in the Korean peninsula.

I should like to state, further, the following as the conclusion of my interventions:

North Korea must refrain from repeating criminal acts such as the incident now before us. The Government of Japan strongly hopes that the international community will join us in condemning international terrorism and will co-operate to prevent the recurrence of acts of terrorism.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea wishes to speak, and I now call on him.

Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I should like to set forth the position of my delegation concerning the statement just made by the United States representative.

The United States representative is attempting to insult and impair the sovereignty and dignity of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, charging it with the KAL incident. This is a despicable act designed to justify south Korea's "investigation results" - doubted by the people of the world - and to mislead world public opinion.

As soon as the south Korean authorities had announced the "results of the investigation", the United States blew the flute in Washington and played the same tune as those authorities. By doing so, the United States itself revealed that it was the wire-puller of the KAL incident.

It is an open secret that the United States worked out a "scenario of warfare against north Korea" and already staged a mock exercise. The keynote of the scenario was that the aircraft carrying the south Korean Foreign Minister on

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

his visit to Japan would be exploded in the sky above the East Sea of Korea in May this year, on the eve of the Seoul Olympics, and military retaliation would be carried out against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under that pretext.

That scenario was staged by the South Korean military dictators in another theatre earlier than scheduled, as a shocking remedy to ensure the extension of the military rule; hence the KAL incident in the Middle East in November last year.

Historically speaking, the United States has worked out a false incident and launched a campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea each time its colonial rule in south Korea has faced a crisis.

In August 1973, when the fascist "Yusin system" of south Korea was faced with strong protests by the masses, and louder voices denouncing the "two Koreas" policy were ringing out, the United States, hand in glove with the South Korean rulers, fabricated the "Kim Dae Jung kidnap case" and laid the blame for it at the door of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In August 1974, when the "Yusin system" was being shaken to its very foundations by massive actions of the south Korean students and people, they wire-pulled the south Korean rulers, who faked the so-called shooting of Pak Jung Hai and announced it as a "criminal act by the north's operatives".

It is a widely known fact that when their colonial rule was landed in the worst crisis by the Kwangju popular uprising in May 1980, they spread false rumours that the uprising was instigated by a "spy from the north"; and in November 1986, when the south Korean people's anti-United States, anti-fascist struggle was gaining momentum, they invented a cock-and-bull story about the so-called abnormal situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" - that is, a "shooting incident" - with the aim of defusing their crisis.

The United States and south Korean military fascist rulers this time

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

fabricated the jetliner incident and linked it with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This was one more of the habitual fake-ups designed to overpower the opposition parties and opposition democratic forces in the "presidential elections", on the pretext of "security", and to extend the military dictatorship.

The United States should be held responsible for the KAL incident that claimed the lives of our fellow countrymen.

As for the "terrorist State" mentioned by the representative of the United States, it is precisely the United States itself - not the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States is the world's No. 1 terrorist State, which itself engages in State terrorism in all parts of the world - a ringleader of aggression, whose mode of existence is open armed intervention, sinister intrigues and subversive activities against other countries. The United States cannot in any way atone for the crimes it has committed against history and mankind while engaging in human butchery through a countless number of aerial terrorist acts. Some instances of aerial terrorist acts committed by the United States are the following:

First, a terrorist act against a Panamanian airliner to kill the Commander-in-Chief of the Panamanian State Defence Army on 31 July 1981;

Secondly, the explosion of a Cuban airliner in October 1976, which claimed the lives of more than 70 people, including members of a Democratic People's Republic of Korea cultural workers' delegation;

Third, an Egyptian jetliner hijacking case on 10 October 1985;

Fourth, the incident of the Boeing 747 south Korean airliner flight 007 that was being used for espionage against the Soviet Union - an incident which claimed the lives of the aircraft's 269 passengers - on 1 September 1983;

BCT/jg

S/PV.2792

74-75

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

Fifth, the crash of an Indian airliner Boeing 747 which buried 329 people in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on 23 June 1985; and

Sixth, the aerial explosion of the plane carrying Mozambican President Machel on his way from a foreign tour - an explosion aimed at assassinating him - on 19 October 1986.

The United States was under fire from the people of the world because of the fact that it had stifled by force of arms newly emerging Grenada of Dominica, which had been advancing along the road of independence and sovereignty; threatened anti-imperialist and independent Libya with an undeclared attack by armed forces; and made a surprise commando attack on Iranian territory. How dare the United States brand others as "terrorist States"? How dare the United States clamour about "sanctions" against others while assassinating State leaders and overthrowing legitimate Governments by means of plots in Central and South America, Asia and Africa and playing the role of the most vicious and malicious "international gendarme"?

The United States has recorded the most disgraceful criminal history in our land of Korea.

The United States rulers, who have invaded Korea for centuries, occupied one half of our land for over 40 years, committed terrorism, destruction and murder and imposed immeasurable misfortunes and disasters upon our nation.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Enforcing military rule from the very day of their occupation of south Korea, the United States aggressors murdered a large number of our patriots and people wherever they went, including Cheju Island, Taegu, Ryosu and Sunchon.

Is it necessary to prove that the United States manipulated behind-the-scenes the Kwagju massacre, which is still fresh in the memory of the south Korean people as rancour? From the historical point of view, and in the recent KAL incident, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has suffered due to the United States.

My delegation believes that the United States, ringleader of international terrorism and brigandish aggressor against Korea, should be brought before the international tribunal.

My delegation demands that the United States immediately stop such rash acts as aggravating the North-South confrontation and tension on the Korean peninsula and mocking the conscience of the world by resorting to foolish and despicable intrigues together with the south Korean authorities.

The United States must withdraw from south Korea along with its nuclear weapons and its forces of aggression and take its hands off Korea.

If the United States wants to get anything from its acts to impair the sovereignty and dignity of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and continuously to aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula, it will get nothing but stern retaliation and destruction.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of the United States of America.

The declarations of the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are so grotesque, so false that they require no answer from me, and I will

(The President)

not try the patience of the Security Council by further long discussion of this kind of rubbish.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea wishes to speak. I call upon him.

Mr. CHOI (Republic of Korea): I have asked to speak at this time in order to offer some concluding remarks after having listened to the deliberations during the last two days.

Allow me first of all to express my deepest gratitude to the many distinguished representatives of the member countries of this august body who have expressed their sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family members of the KAL victims and the Korean people.

It is with deep regret that I feel compelled to make some comments on the North Korean allegations. I listened carefully to the statements made by the North Korean representative yesterday and today. The North Korean statements read like mystery fiction, and are indeed nothing more than fiction. The fantastic twists and turns in the so-called plot should impress upon us once again what is all too apparent. Once again the North Koreans are indulging in their pernicious habit of denying what they did, and they seek to obscure it in a meandering, garbled folk-tale. I was appalled at the impudence of the North Korean representative in telling this august body a total fiction without a grain of truth in it. I do not think such preposterous allegations deserve serious comment. However I should like to make the following points for the benefit of the Council.

The North Korean representative, in concocting the story that the destruction of the KAL aircraft was the work of the Republic of Korea, referred to leaders of my country in derogatory terms, which I find most reprehensible.

(Mr. Choi, Republic of Korea)

If the plan was made by the highest leaders of the Republic of Korea in tight secrecy, as claimed by North Korea, then how could the North Korean representative tell the story and give details, which could be known only by insiders?

The North Korean reapepresentative referred to an imaginary message from the overseas agents of the Repoublic of Korea in Vienna dated 19 November 1987. If North Korea is seriously alleging that it is in a position to obtain secret messages of such a nature, I can only admire the espionage capabilities of North Korea. They have a marvellous intelligence network we all could envy, and rightly so, if we could only figure out what evidence they have provided. But none has been offered to us. It is a marvel that the North Korean representative seems to know far more than I know as Foreign Minister concerning what happens in my own Ministry.

The North Korean representative alleged that the remains of KAL Flight 858 found in the Andaman Sea were "sham" remains scattered there by the Republic of Korea. The remains were found by Burma and were handed over to the Republic of Korea against a list duly signed by the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs of the Government of Burma. To make such an allegation would be to add another insult to the Government of Burma, after North Korea used Burma as a site for the murder of a large number of Korean Government officials in 1983.

In this connection the representative of Zambia mentioned that no efforts were made to recover the wreckage of the exploded plane. As has been pointed out - in my previous statement and in Security Council document S/19488 of 10 February 1988 - great efforts were made to search the wreckage by the Governments of Burma, Thailand and my own country. For instance, the Burmese Government mobilized more than 300 public and private vessels to search for the wreckage for a very considerable period of time. Thailand mobilized all the

(Mr. Choi, Republic of Korea)

equipment available to it, and we sent a special investigation team to Thailand to search for the plane wreckage. I wish to remind the representative of Zambia that in many cases the black boxes are not found, particularly when planes have exploded over a wide, open and deep sea.

It is very interesting that the North Korean representative alleged yesterday that Mr. Park Soo Gil, Assistant Minister of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Korea, a member of my delegation sitting right behind me, who had been sent to Bahrain as my special envoy, had "taken cash and valuables with him to bribe the Bahrain officials to have 'Mayumi' extradited to Korea". The representative of North Korea even went a step further and alleged that "Mr. Park Soo Gil himself confessed" - I emphasize the word "confessed" - "to having spent millions of dollars to have 'Mayumi' extradited". What I know about my Assistant Minister is that he has been in the foreign service of the Republic of Korea for almost 30 years. He was posted at the United Nations for four years, from 1980 to 1984, as Deputy Chief of the Observer Mission of the Republic of Korea, before being posted to Morocco as the Korean Ambassador. He has served his country with distinction, and I have never heard that he has lied. But now the North Korean representative says that he has confessed to criminal interference with justice. At his request, let me ask the North Korean representative where, when and to whom Mr. Park made that kind of confession. If the North Korean representative cannot answer on that point, it means that North Korea is blatantly telling a lie to deceive world public opinion.

He dares to accuse the Bahrain leaders of taking bribes. It is important to note that the North Korean representative has implicated Japan and Bahrain, among others, in the alleged plot. This is lamentable because it appears he has delivered unwarranted insults to two sovereign States in order to elaborate his deception.

(Mr. Choi, Republic of Korea)

It was also alleged that Kim Hyon-hui, who made a public confession on 15 January 1988, is not the same person as the woman extradited to Korea by the State of Bahrain. We have here the forged passport carried by Kim Hyon-hui. We also have here photographs of Kim Hyon-hui and her male accomplice taken at the Regency Hotel in Manama, Bahrain. All delegates are welcome to take a look at them, and see for themselves whether the allegation is true. A simple glance at them would be enough to show that North Korea is telling a shameless lie.

The North Korean delegate further alleged that the woman who made public confession on 15 January 1988 must be a South Korean, because she used words which are not in use in North Korea. The truth is that Kim Hyon-hui spoke Korean with a distinct and definite North Korean accent. Since Korea has been divided for more than four decades, a woman of Kim Hyon-hui's age in South Korea does not speak Korean with a North Korean accent.

The points I have just raised are but a few examples of the contradictions and absurdities of the North Korean allegations.

As I have said, I can only marvel at the impudence of the North Korean representative in telling the Council a total lie. Incredibly, he is making the allegation without any shred of evidence, any witness, or even plausibility.

Having said this much on the allegations of North Korea, I now turn to the main issue.

One of the primary objectives of our foreign policy is to reduce tension in the Korean peninsula, and to create favourable conditions for peaceful unification. Tension is heightened by such terrorist acts as are committed by North Korea. We believe that strong condemnation of international terrorism is one of the most effective means to deter the recurrence of such acts, and discussion of such acts in this forum serves to reduce the tension. Tension in the Korean

(Mr. Choi, Republic of Korea)

peninsula is heightened not by our discussions about terrorist acts, but by the wanton acts of terrorism by North Korea.

We all know that combating terrorism is one of the most urgent challenges facing the world. International terrorism, involving as it does the use of force against innocent parties, constitutes a threat to the world's peace and security, particularly when it is practised as an instrument of State policy.

We have come before the Council not just to condemn an act of terrorism committed by North Korea, but to show the perpetrators the firm determination of the international community to fight terrorism, so that they may be deterred from committing further acts.

Our purpose is not to isolate North Korea or even to seek revenge for its murderous act. What we hope for above all else is to help it understand that the international community will never condone acts of terrorism, whatever purposes they may have been intended to achieve.

Even now, despite world-wide condemnation of its terrorist acts, the North Korean régime shamelessly attempts to pervert the truth by telling blatant and preposterous lies to the world community.

North Korea's continued refusal to admit its crime has dangerous implications for world peace and security, as it forebodes a recurrence of similar acts of sabotage by North Korea. In the interests of world peace and security, this must be prevented by all means.

We believe that the Council's discussions have been extremely useful. They have reiterated the firm resolve of this world body to eradicate the plague of international terrorism. We hope that this message will be clearly understood by North Korea.

(Mr. Choi, Republic of Korea)

I believe our discussions have highlighted the following points. First, there can be no doubt in anyone's mind that North Korea committed the crime of blowing up a Korean Air civil airliner and killing 115 innocent people. Secondly, regardless of ideological commitments and differences, it is agreed that terrorism is a grave threat to world peace and security. Thirdly, it has been reiterated that the international community should make joint efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism, which can never be condoned or tolerated. Fourthly, North Korea has been strongly urged to renounce its policy of violence so that it may become a responsible member of the international community.

It may be recalled here that even after the Rangoon incident the Government of the Republic of Korea sat at the negotiating table with the representatives of Pyongyang to discuss and work out confidence-building measures aimed at reducing tension in the Korean peninsula.

Even today, the Republic of Korea would stand ready to work with North Korea in an effort to seek peace and unification, if the North Korean régime pledged never to repeat acts of terror and violence. We sincerely hope that North Korea will respond positively to our appeal for restraint.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the many Governments which have joined in supporting our effort to deter further acts of terrorism. Their invaluable support will be long remembered by the people of the Republic of Korea, as it certainly will contribute to making this world a safer place to live in.

Finally, I should like to thank you again, Mr. President, for the outstanding leadership with which you have conducted our deliberations, which I believe have produced fruitful results.

The PRESIDENT: In view of the lateness of the hour, I appeal to all speakers to be as brief as possible.

JP/ad

S/PV.2792
84-85

(The President)

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has asked to speak, and I call on him.

Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I shall be as brief as possible, Sir, in view of the late hour.

The gentleman from south Korea asked me some questions. He wondered how I could know certain information and details about this kind of political plot. I wish to tell him that we also have friends. Why not? In particular, he cannot in any way conceal a dirty political plot of this kind, in any circumstances. It could be revealed at any time; it is only a matter of time.

Although he holds the position of Foreign Minister of south Korea, the gentleman concerned has just told me that even he himself did not know. But I should like to ask him one question. Has he any knowledge of the scenario for the American warfare against north Korea, in which his name was involved? He is very lucky to be here with us today. He may or may not know about the details of that. I say to him "The Americans do not believe completely in you". When the American Secretary of State visited south Korea he sent his security officers to check first the room where the meetings of the two foreign ministers were to be held. The American security officers brought a dog with them to check for explosives in the room where the foreign minister of south Korea was staying.

Secondly, the Foreign Minister of south Korea raised questions about the black box. It is common sense and common knowledge among the people of the world, even schoolboys, that whenever an aircraft crashes every effort should be made in all circumstances to find the black box first. Every effort has been made by international organizations and the parties directly involved in the past. Everybody here may remember how actively the search operations were conducted to find the black box in the 1983 incident and later to find the black box of the Indian airliner that had been in trouble.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

But modern technology found those black boxes. Why is it only the south Korean airline's black box that modern technology has missed? Why can the south Korean Foreign Minister reply to this? Could it have exploded? No. That is why I fully agree with the statement of the representative of Zambia; he himself is a pilot. He knows all about these things: more than the Foreign Minister of south Korea.

The KAL incident reminds us of other familiar methods the south Korean rulers have used whenever they faced a serious political crisis at home. The KAL incident is nothing more than an extension of the bad habits of the south Korean rulers. Let me mention some of those bad habits.

First of all, when Kim Dae Jung, two-time presidential candidate, in 1971 and 1987, was kidnapped from a Tokyo hotel in August 1973 on direct orders from former dictator Pak Jung Hi, south Korean agents left cigarette packets supposedly made in our country in the room where Kim Dae Jung had stayed in order to give the impression that the kidnapping had been the work of north Korean agents. The south Korean authorities linked the kidnap incident with our country. Kim Dae Jung, whom the south Korean authorities claimed north Korean agents had kidnapped, was one of the presidential candidates last year in south Korea. In interviews with two south Korean magazines, Shin Dong-A and Monthly Chosun in September 1987, the former director of south Korean central intelligence, Lee Hu Rak, himself admitted that the abduction had been planned by the agency and had been conducted according to his directions.

Secondly, on 15 August 1974, then south Korean ruler Pak Jung Hi got one of his aides to shoot his wife during the liberation day ceremony. After that he made much ado by raving that a Korean resident in Japan, sent by the north, had shot his

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

wife to death. However, Pak Jung Hi, was slain in the end by his closest aide, the former director of the south Korean central intelligence agency, under manipulation by his master.

Thirdly, when the Kim Po airport explosion took place in September 1986, the south Korean authorities immediately tried to link the incident to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in spite of the absence of any material evidence.

Fourthly, from the first day the present south Korean ruler took power, he has been cooking up without interruption so-called incidents of attempted assassination of the President by north Korea, using just the same methods used by his predecessor, in order to support his shaky position. The south Korean authorities have raved that the north has attempted to assassinate the present south Korean ruler during his tour of Canada in 1982. The bomb blast at the martyrs' mausoleum in Rangoon, Burma, on 9 October, was also a political intrigue concocted by the present south Korean ruler himself. One of the alleged suspects arrested by the Burmese authorities in the presence of ambassadors of third-world countries accredited to Burma confessed to the south Korean investigation team that he was from south Korea and had graduated from Songbuk elementary school and Seoul University. The south Korean authorities made desperate efforts to shift responsibility for the incident onto the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Fifthly, more recently, the south Korean authorities proclaimed that the case of a missing secretary at the south Korean embassy in Lebanon was a kidnap operation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the secretary turned up later and returned to south Korea some time last year.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Sixthly, when the Kwangju popular uprising took place in May 1980, the south Korean rulers linked it with our country, while slaughtering more than 2,000 citizens of the city of Kwangju.

Those incidents can be seen as a last-ditch effort by the south Korean rulers to maintain their military-dominated rule in south Korea.

No one can foretell what kind of new "shocking incidents" they will invent in the future in view of the south Korean rulers' criminal record of habitual political intrigue against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in view of the unstable situation in south Korea. The fact that they are now mobilizing more than 200,000 regular troops to stage war games based on an attack against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while carrying out a heinous smear campaign against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea linking the KAL incident with our country, indicates that an abnormally grave situation might take place.

No one can guess where the south Korean rulers will move their theatre of self-written drama, as they have enacted a number of their own dramas in Tokyo, Seoul, Canada, Rangoon, Kim Po airport and Bahrain over the past 10 years.

The south Korean rulers should give up their vicious criminal habits. They should have made the bold decision to respond to our proposal for a north-south joint conference, meeting the desire of the nation for national reconciliation and unity before they brought a case of political intrigue like the KAL incident before the Security Council.

It is our view that there are problems, including the co-hosting of the XXIV Olympic Games, to be discussed and settled between the north and the south of Korea without delay.

(Mr. Pak, Democratic People's
Republic of Korea)

In order to turn the relations between the north and the south from antagonism and confrontation to reconciliation and unity, outstanding issues in the north and the south - such as the problems of discontinuing for the present the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises and other large-scale military exercises, of convening multinational disarmament talks, of jointly hosting the XXIV Olympic Games, and of ceasing to hurl abuse and slander at one another - should be solved without delay.

Those problems relate not only to the interests of the authorities on both sides or of specific political parties, but also to the common interests of the whole nation. Therefore, they can be settled correctly only when the wills of the authorities, political parties, social organizations and individual personalities of the north and of the south are brought together.

If a north-south joint conference is arranged, a new phase will open in promoting peace in the country, and its peaceful reunification.

I have tried to be as brief as possible.

The PRESIDENT: The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea has asked to make a statement, and I now call upon him.

Mr. CHOI (Republic of Korea): Since the questions and statements of the North Korean representative are so preposterous and totally irrelevant to the subject of the deliberations of the Council, I would not dignify his statement with any serious comments.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has asked to make a statement, and I call upon him.

Mr. PAK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I will be very brief this time. If south Korea had not brought this case to the Security Council at this time, no such accusations or counter-accusations would be made.

The PRESIDENT: Before concluding this phase of the debate, I would like to make a brief comment.

It is a tragedy that 115 lives have been lost needlessly. I am certain that I speak for all of us in this Chamber when I offer condolences to the bereaved families.

A common thread has run through this debate. All speakers have rejected attacks on civil aviation and have deplored such attacks. No speaker has defended the deplorable incident involving KAL Flight 858. Let us hope that this encouraging development means that such incidents will never occur again.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list, and I intend to adjourn the meeting now. The Security Council will remain seized of this matter.

The meeting rose at 1.50 p.m.