ARMED TRUCE
"The UNC will continue to work for a genuine, lasting peace in accordance with the legal provisions established and agreed upon by both sides in the Military Armistice Agreement regardless of the trying behavior of the Communist side."

Charles H. Bonesteel III
Commander in Chief
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군사분계선
MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE
ARMED TRUCE

Korea is still in a state of war. A peace treaty has never been signed. United Nations and Republic of Korea forces still oppose the Communists along a 151-mile frontier in a period of suspended hostilities under an armed truce concluded more than a decade ago. Because a political conference has not yet solved Korea's future the Korean Armistice Agreement remains in effect.
POTSDAM TO PANMUNJOM

In Korea, World War II ended with the Soviet armies accepting the surrender of all Japanese troops north of the 38th parallel and the United States forces accepting their surrender to the south. The four power pledge expressed at the Cairo Conference and in the Potsdam Declaration by the United States, The United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and the Republic of China had promised a free and independent Korea. But the surrender arrangement was exploited by the USSR to create an artificial barrier along the 38th parallel, dividing a country which had been unified for more than 1,300 years.

Efforts by the Free World adherents to the Potsdam Declaration failed to achieve Korean unification because the Soviet Union refused to permit free elections to establish a democratic Korean government. In late 1947 the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the principle of free elections to unite Korea as an independent nation and established a commission to supervise them. Denied entrance to north Korea, the commission sponsored free elections in south Korea in May 1948. These elections established the Republic of Korea and brought it United Nations recognition as the only lawful government in Korea.
Hopes for immediate peaceful unification were shattered in September 1948 when the Soviet Union answered United Nations recognition of the Republic of Korea by establishing a North Korean puppet regime, "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

In a brutal surprise attack in the early morning hours of June 25, 1950 the Soviet trained, equipped and directed north Korean forces surged across the 38th parallel in great strength. They were opposed only by the lightly armed Republic of Korea internal security force established when the United States withdrew all its combat forces the year before. The Communists had proven that "peaceful unification" to them included resort to all out war.

Fifty-three nations responded; 16 furnished combat forces. Troops and supplies from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey, Union of
South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States of America moved quickly to the battlefield.

Bitter fighting raged across the rugged peninsula from Pusan in the south to the Yalu River in the north. With north Korean forces beaten back to the Yalu, hordes of Communist Chinese "Volunteer" troops swept into Korea on November 25, 1950, and pushed United Nations troops back south of Seoul.

Fighting across unfamiliar rice paddies and mountains, United Nations Command forces regained a position well north of the 38th parallel. On June 23, 1951, the Russian delegate to the U.N. proposed a Korean cease fire.
Armistice negotiations began on July 10, 1951, at Kaesong in north Korean territory. After an early breakdown which lasted more than two months, the talks resumed near Panmunjom. Fighting continued. Neither side wanted all-out war during the cease fire talks. But both sides made last ditch attempts to consolidate and improve their positions. During this unique period of stalemate war, soldiers measured gains in feet; names like “Old Baldy,” “Heartbreak Ridge,” “Pork Chop Hill” and “The Punch Bowl” were written gallantly into history with the blood of United Nations and Republic of Korea forces. Meanwhile the cease-fire negotiations passed the two-year mark, a total of 18,000,000 words!
AGREEMENT SIGNED

July 27, 1953 . . . Panmunjom . . . 10:00 A.M.

There was none of the thrill and drama of other peace parleys—the 1918 Franco-German confrontation in a railway coach in the Compiegne Woods; the Reims schoolhouse meeting in 1945; the pageantry aboard the battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay. There was none of this at Panmunjom, Korea in 1953. The truce shed was thrown up hastily by the Communists only hours before. The chief negotiators took ten minutes to sign 18 official copies of the Korean Armistice Agreement. Without speaking, Communist and UN representatives rose, strode out separate doors, ending the longest armistice negotiations in history—255 meetings spread over two years and 17 days. Several hours later, General Mark Clark, Commander of the United Nations Command, Kim Il Sung of the north Korean People’s Army and Peng Teh-Huai for the Chinese People’s Volunteers affixed their signatures to the documents at their individual headquarters behind the lines. At 10:00 P.M. that evening the truce went into effect. The guns stopped abruptly. Moonlight replaced the glare of searchlights along the battle front.

The armistice is unique. At its conclusion neither side shook hands with the other. The Republic of Korea never signed it. No less unique are some of its provisions. The agreement is binding only upon the military forces of north Korea, the “Volunteers” of Communist China and the 16 UN member nations who furnished combat forces. Though the Republic of Korea is not a
signatory and the ROK Government participated in the truce talks only as an observer, it fully supports and observes the agreement strictly.

The Korean Armistice Agreement is primarily a military document; an agreement between the two sides to stop shooting. However, it contains a recommendation for convening a political conference within three months to discuss the unification of Korea and the withdrawal of all foreign troops. The conference was held in Geneva in 1954, nine months after the truce was signed. Communist disregard of reason and truth produced the same negative results as discussions between the United States and Russia on the Korean question after WW II. Korea remains divided.

### THE TRUCE TERMS

The major provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement

- suspend open hostilities,
- withdrawal of all military forces and equipment from a 4,000-meter-wide buffer zone separating the two sides,
- permit only one-for-one replacement of personnel and item-for-item, type-for-type replacement of combat material in order to maintain the military status quo,
- arrange release and repatriation of prisoners of war and displaced civilians,
- establish the Military Armistice Commission and other agencies to negotiate any violations and to insure adherence to the truce terms.
THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

The Demilitarized Zone winds 151 miles across the Korean peninsula from the Han River Estuary in the west, to a point just below the 39th parallel on the east coast. Down the center of the 4,000-meter-wide strip, grown thick with underbrush in the years since the truce was signed, is the Military Demarcation Line. It is marked by 1,292 intermittently spaced MDL markers printed in Korean and English on the side facing south and Korean and Chinese on the side facing north. This was the line of ground contact between the opposing sides at the moment of cease-fire. This new border provides south Korea not only with more territory, but also with a far more defensible frontier than the old Iron Curtain boundary along the 38th parallel.

The Armistice Agreement created the "DMZ" as a buffer zone and required withdrawal of all military equipment and forces. It limited entrance into the DMZ to those authorized by the Agreement or approved by the Military Armistice Commission. Each side is allowed 1,000 civil police in its half of the zone at a time. 300 American and 700 Republic of Korea military personnel selected for this duty make regular patrols in the southern half of the zone. Patrols sometimes encounter and capture north Korean Communists attempting to infiltrate into south Korea. Often, UNC and Red patrols meet, and pass in cold silence. The DMZ dwarfs the Berlin Wall, it is a barrier 151 miles long and 4,000 meters wide, a symbol of the tragic division of Korea.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

THE DMZ

38th PARALLEL

KAESONG • PANMUNJOM

INCHON • SEOUL

Republic of Korea

MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE
THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION

The Military Armistice Commission is the principal agency established to supervise implementation of the truce terms. It is composed of five members appointed by each side. The UNC Senior Member's position is rotated every six months among the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. Representatives of the United Nations Command Advisory Group and the Republic of Korea also serve on the commission. Four officers of the north Korean People's Army and one of the Chinese People's Volunteers represent the Communists. One of the north Koreans serves as Senior Member for his side. The presence of one member from each side constitutes a quorum for meetings.

The opposing Senior Members are the only spokesmen for their sides at all commission meetings. Either side can call a meeting without stating the reason. The talks are aloofly formal. There is no chairman and no agenda. The Senior Member of the side calling the meeting speaks first. Key members of the Senior Member's staff sit behind him in the conference room. The United Nations Command Advisory Group—representatives of most of the 16 United Nations members which furnished combat support—also attend meetings. The representative speaks in his own language. Each statement is translated into Korean and Chinese after the UNC statement.
in English and into English and Chinese after the KPA/CFV statement in Korean. This is done consecutively rather than simultaneously.

Each side appoints a Secretary who is responsible for administrative, record keeping and interpreter-translator services. The opposing Secretaries meet at the request of either side to discuss administrative problems and to negotiate minor violations of the Armistice. The Secretaries Meetings follow the same pattern as the full commission talks except that there are no Chinese representatives and no Chinese translation.
The meetings are held in the Joint Security Area near Panmunjom. Roughly circular, the JSA is 800 meters wide; bisected by the Military Demarcation Line. The buildings are set squarely on the MDL. The line bisects the center of the green, felt-covered conference table putting the Communist side of the meeting table in north Korea and the United Nations Command in the Republic of Korea. Military Armistice Commission personnel move freely in the Joint Security Area but through custom do not enter the opposing side's buildings. Similarly, visitors to the area are not permitted to enter the other side's buildings.

Since the Commission headquarters of each side is located outside the conference area—Seoul in the south and Kaesong in the north—Joint Duty Officers, appointed by commanders of the opposing forces, maintain offices in the area to provide continuous liaison. The Joint Duty Officers meet at noon every day, except Sundays and holidays, to exchange routine reports and to pass communications from the Senior Members or Secretaries of their sides.

Military Police of both sides guard the conference area. Each side is permitted no more than 35 Security Police on duty in the Joint Security Area at a time.
JOINT OBSERVER TEAMS

Under the terms of the Armistice Agreement, five Joint Observer Teams are provided to assist the Military Armistice Commission in supervising the implementation of those provisions of the Armistice Agreement which pertain to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Han River Estuary. Four teams have been assigned sectors of responsibility along the DMZ. The fifth team is responsible for the Han River Estuary. Each team is comprised of from four to six field grade officers-half of whom are appointed by each side.

The two primary functions of the United Nations component of the Joint Observer Teams are to meet with their communist counterparts in the DMZ for negotiation of serious issues under dispute and to conduct investigations of Armistice Agreement violations. Both the Military Armistice Commission and the Senior Member of either side are authorized to dispatch a Joint Observer Team.
The Armistice Agreement established a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission as an independent, fact-finding body outside the authority of, but reporting to the Military Armistice Commission. It is composed of four senior officers, one each from two nations selected by each side. The Agreement defines "neutral nation" as any nation whose combatant forces did not participate in hostilities in Korea. Czechoslovakia and Poland were nominated by the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers; Sweden and Switzerland by the United Nations Command. The four members of the Commission are assisted by administrative personnel from their own countries.

The mission of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission is to insure, through investigation and inspection, adherence by both sides to the provisions of the Armistice Agreement designed to maintain the military status quo which existed when the ceasefire was effected. The Agreement designated 10 ports, five each in north and south Korea, as the only authorized points of entry for replacement personnel and equipment. Neutral Nations Inspection Teams, composed of representatives from each of the four nations, were assigned to each of the ports and on the request of the Senior Member of either side were to inspect any other area where violations of the military status quo provisions were reported or suspected.
From the very beginning of the truce the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers side deliberately frustrated the efforts of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in conducting investigations and inspections in north Korea, while all members of the teams were permitted free movement in the south. The authorized ports of entry were by-passed in the north to illegally introduce combat materiel and the inspection teams were denied freedom of movement to conduct investigations. After the Communists continued to ignore protests against their disregard of the Armistice provisions, the United Nations Command, at the 70th Military Armistice Commission on May 31, 1956, announced suspension of any further inspections in south Korea until such time as the KPA/CPV side agreed to honor the Armistice terms in that regard. This decision, made only after every possible and reasonable recourse had been thoroughly exploited, still remains in effect.

The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission—though its activities are reduced—continues to meet at least once each week according to the provisions of the Armistice Agreement in the Joint Security Area. Its members and their staffs have offices and are housed in the Demilitarized Zone adjacent to the conference area. The Czech and Polish representatives are located in the northern half of the zone; the Swedish and Swiss representatives are located in the southern half.
THE COMMUNIST RECORD VS THE UN RECORD

The Communists' flagrant disregard of truce terms, coupled with their flat denial of fact, has persisted since the Armistice was signed. As of May 10, 1966 the United Nations Command has documented 5,040 separate Communist violations of the Agreement. The Reds have admitted only two, both minor; both in the first months of the truce. The United Nations Command recognizes that inadvertent violations are bound to occur and readily admits its own. All charges made by the Communists are thoroughly investigated by the United Nations Command but only a small number—about 0.2 percent—have been found valid. The others were fabricated by the Communists in an attempt to defame the United Nations Command.

One of the most significant and serious violations of the Armistice Agreement has been the sustained disregard by the Korean People's Army and Chinese People's Volunteers of the provisions prohibiting buildup of military strength beyond the status quo which existed when the Agreement was signed. In order to bypass the agreed upon ports of entry and to avoid inspection by the Neutral Nations Inspection Teams, a completely
new railroad was constructed between Manchuria and north Korea, for the illegal shipment of combat material. At the time of the cease-fire, the Communist side had no air force, in north Korea; now they have over 500 jet aircraft. They make no effort to conceal the planes. Yet, at Panmunjom, they deny their existence even in the face of irrefutable evidence. A tape recording was made from an official north Korean radio broadcast of a speech on the anniversary of the Korean People’s Army by its Chief of General Staff, in which he declared that “the north Korean Army’s combat capabilities have been strengthened in a proportion incomparable to the time of the past war.” When this portion of the speech was replayed at a Military Armistice Commission meeting, the Communists continued to deny violation of the military status quo provisions, just as they deny the existence of illegally introduced fortifications in their half of the Demilitarized Zone when those fortifications are clearly visible from UNC lines.

The United Nations Command scrupulously adhered to the Armistice status quo provisions for almost four years while the Communists openly
violated the Agreement to create a military imbalance in their favor. When it became clear that the north Koreans had no intention of abiding by these provisions, their suspension was announced by the United Nations Command at the 75th Military Armistice Commission Meeting on June 21, 1957. The UNC spokesman told the Reds the provisions were suspended until such time as the Communists agreed to comply with them. Still the north Koreans tiresomely continue to insist that they have never violated the status quo provisions.

The Communist side flaunts its insincerity at every meeting of the Military Armistice Commission or its agencies, not only by its deliberate falsification of charges and intransigent attitude, but also by its deliberate distortion of the established purpose of the meetings. Unrecognized by the Free World nations, the north Korean puppet regime attempts to make the meetings—its only official contact with other than Soviet Bloc countries—a forum for its political propaganda. The United Nations Command condemns this calculated deviation from the only valid purpose of the meetings—to investigate and negotiate violations of the Armistice Agreement.
THE OBLIGATION

At no other time in history has it been more important to understand and pursue the principles of the United Nations which seek to preserve individual rights and human dignity which we all cherish. Free World nations joined with the Republic of Korea to defend these principles on Korean soil for the first time under the United Nations banner. It is a memorial to their success that the Communist tide which sought to engulf the Republic of Korea in 1950 was repulsed and remains beyond the Demilitarized Zone.

The Korean Military Armistice Agreement was established to preserve these gains until a political solution is reached. The United Nations Command will continue to honor its spirit with sincere negotiations and military dignity. To do less—to endanger the truce by resorting to the Communists' tactics of deceit and distortion—would be a perfidious injustice to those who died to repel the Red scourge.
This unique structure was designed, erected and dedicated on this site by the people of the Republic of Korea with the support of the United Nations Command as a historical symbol of the hope for peaceful reunification of the divided Korea under a free and democratic form of government.

Located in front of Freedom House is statue of Ul Chi Mun Dok, the famous Korean general of the Koguryo Kingdom, who defeated the invading Chinese Armed Forces of the Sui Dynasty in 612 A.D. It is dedicated in honor of those ROK and UN troops who gave their lives in the defense of the Republic of Korea and freedom.
1 Joint Duty Office (KPA)
2 Utility Building (KPA)
3 NNSC Office Building (KPA)
4 NNSC Conference Building (UNC)
5 MAC Conference Building (UNC)
6 Joint Duty Office (UNC)
7 Recreation Building (KPA)
8 Press Building (UNC)
9 Guard Post (KPA)
10 Rest Rooms (UNC)
11 UNC Helicopter Pad
12 Swiss-Swede Camp (NNSC)
13 UNC Check Point
14 Guard Post (KPA)
15 Bridge of No Return
16 Guard Post (UNC)
17 Guard Post (KPA)
18 Czech-Pole Camp (NNSC)
19 UNC Check Point
20 Propaganda Park (KPA)
21 Freedom House (UNC)
22 Lagoon (UNC)
23 Visitor Parking (UNC)
Military and civilian personnel are permitted to visit Panmunjom as guests of the United Nations Command daily except Monday. Here one can see the tragedy of the division of Korea and sense to the fullest the reality of the Communist threat. Application should be made to the Armistice Affairs Division, Headquarters, United Nations Command, building 2519 (telephone Yongsan 3110). More than 130,000 UN guests have visited the Joint Security Area since 1953 whereas the communist side has permitted only 10,320 visitors in the same period.