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Item 33: The Korean Question

Text of Statement to be made in the First Committee by the Canadian Representative, Mr. Gordon E. Cox, on Friday, November 3, 1967

By co-sponsoring the draft resolution contained in Document A/C.1/L.405, the Canadian Delegation is expressing its concern about the continued division of Korea and lack of progress towards a just solution of problems which stand in the way of a peaceful settlement in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter. Especially in the light of increased violations of the ceasefire in and around the Demilitarized Zone, we feel that greater efforts than ever must be made towards the creation of conditions that can lead to the reunification of Korea on the basis of genuinely free elections.

The continued high rate of economic growth of the Republic of

Korea is very encouraging. A stable economy and an improving standard of living

will provide a better climate for achieving the objectives that the United Nations

General Assembly has set for the United Nations Commission for the Unification

and Rehabilitation of Korea. This increasing viability is reflected in the

efforts of the Republic of Korea's Government to expand its role in the international

community. As the President of the Republic of Korea himself said in his state of

the nation message delivered to the National Assembly on January 17, 1967:

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"While continuing our efforts to expand further and improve the ties of economic cooperation and trade with friendly nations, the Government will strive to promote relations with those other countries with which we find it possible to enter into relations of amity and friendship including the neutral nations."

The Republic of Korea is having a measure of success in these efforts and in this respect it can look to the future with confidence. As the UNCURK Report also clearly states, there is a growing confidence in the economy of the Republic by foreign investors and this confidence was reflected in the magnitude of foreign capital that was attracted during the period under review.

We believe that the presence of UNCURK and the functions exercised by it have helped to create the climate in which these positive and encouraging developments could take place. Since UNCURK can still contribute to an eventual just solution of the problems of a divided Korea, we hope that the draft resolution contained in Document A/C.1/L.405 will receive wide support.