

SPARE

Language

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED NATIONS COMMAND
MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION
APO 72

FIFTH STAFF OFFICERS' MEETING ON RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES REQUIRED IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BY THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION AND THE AGENCIES ESTABLISHED BY THE ARMISTICE, HELD AT PAMUNJCM, KOREA, 2 AUGUST 1953.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

UNITED NATIONS:

COL J K Weber, USA
COL S L Metcalfe, USA
COL E J Brugger, USA

KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY
CHINESE PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEERS

COL Ju Yon, NKA
COL Hsu Ming, CPV

Meeting convened at 1025 hours.

COL WEBER:

Our side has a statement to make.

The major problem upon which this committee has not agreed is the location of the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, and the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. Our side considers that the only location for these Headquarters which is completely in accord with the Armistice Agreement is a location astride the Military Demarcation Line.

Our side proposes that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission be placed astride the Military Demarcation Line.

Does your side agree?

COL JU:

We agree to your proposal that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission all be at the

22

(CONT'D)

same place.

Sub-paragraph 25 a provides where the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission should be. I now quote:

"...locate its Headquarters in the vicinity of Panmunjom. (37 degrees 57' 29" north parallel and altitude 126 degrees 40' 00" longitude east."

There is no provision in the Armistice Agreement that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission should be located on the Military Demarcation Line.

COL WEBER:

Our side considers the problem facing this Committee is the location of the Headquarters. If your side is not prepared to agree to placing the Headquarters astride the Military Demarcation Line, our side shall refer this problem to the Military Armistice Commission.

Have you anything further?

COL JU:

Since we are in agreement that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, and the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission be all in one place, I cannot find any reason why the question of constructing them in the vicinity of Panmunjom should be referred to the Military Armistice Commission when they could be fully settled by the Staff Officers.

COL WEBER:

Since we are not in agreement that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, and the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission be located astride the Military Demarcation Line, our side is obliged to report to the Military Armistice Commission our inability

(CONT'D)

to decide this controlling question. Our side suggests that this Staff Officers' Meeting recess until further orders from the Military Armistice Commission.

COL JU:

In conformity with the agreement, the location of the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission can be decided upon by Staff Officers of both sides by order of the Senior Members of the Armistice Commission. We are also in agreement that as to the location of the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, we should hear the views of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. The Neutral Nations invited by both sides have already arrived. We can hear their views. I again suggest that the issue should not be discussed only at a meeting of both sides, but for the settlement of the question of where the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, that of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and that of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission should be, we should survey the terrain conditions directly.

The next point I want to bring up is that your side said the Headquarters would require five buildings. At the same time, both sides were in agreement that, as to the expenses of buildings required by the Headquarters, it should be shared jointly by both sides. Now the question is if five buildings are required, what should be the way of sharing the burden jointly?

We would like to hear your views as to this question.

COL WEBER:

Our side has noted your question.

(CONF'D)

Since your side and our side are not in agreement that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission be located astride the Demarcation Line, our side is obliged to report to the Military Armistice Commission our inability to decide this important question. Our side proposes that this Staff Officers' Meeting recess until further orders from the Military Armistice Commission

COL JU: I have asked you how the expenses of the construction of the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission should be borne jointly by both sides.

COL WEBER: Our side has noted the questions proposed by your side.

Since your side and our side are not in agreement that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, and the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission be located astride the Demarcation Line, our side again proposes that this Staff Officers' Meeting recess until further orders from the Military Armistice Commission.

COL JU: Our side proposes that at ten o'clock tomorrow morning, the Staff Officers of each side shall survey the terrain and that the Staff Officers meet again at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

COL WEBER: As your side and our side are not in agreement on the important question that the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, the Headquarters of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission and the Headquarters of the Neutral

(CONT'D)

Nations Repatriation Commission be located astride the Demarcation Line, our side is going to report such fact to the Military Armistice Commission.

COL JU:

Our side considers that for the reason that as to the question of locating the Headquarters astride the Military Demarcation Line both sides are not in agreement, your side finds it not necessary for the staff officers to discuss the possibility of finding a change of both sides agreeing as well as discussing the question of taking the measures for the consideration, and our side considers that that is not necessary.

Our side has never refused the discussion by both sides of where the Headquarters should be located. In order to reach an agreement as to the question, we have proposed to survey the terrain conditions and to continue the meetings.

Our side also proposed that at ten o'clock tomorrow morning both sides should send the staff officers and survey the area proposed by your side and then, in order to reach an agreement after consideration by both sides, we also proposed that the staff officers could begin to continue the discussion at three o'clock in the afternoon tomorrow.

(Captain Coleman enters)

Now I have one thing to say to your Secretary.

In accordance with the reports from the fourth Observer Team sent by our side to Kyo Ho Dong which is the meeting place for the fourth Joint Observer Team and which is in the South of the Military Demarcation Line, your side has not yet cleared many mines.

(CONT'D)

In our area north of the Military Demarcation Line, too, at present efforts are being made to completely clear away the hazards.

If the hazards in the region south of the Military Demarcation Line are not cleared away, it would be difficult for the Joint Observer Team to meet. I would appreciate it if your side could raise this question to the Military personnel of your side.

CAPT COLEMAN:

At the conclusion of your meeting on the subject of construction, I would like to have you join me in looking at the map so that I can be sure of the area to which you refer. I will then direct our personnel in our part of the area south of the Demilitarized Zone to complete such mine clearance as might be necessary in order that Joint Observer Team Number Four can conduct its meeting.

COL JU:

The area where the mines have not yet been cleared away is around Kyo Ho Dong. Since it is clearly shown on the map as a place where Observer Team Number Four are to meet in accordance with the Agreement I think that it is no issue which needs further explanation.

CAPT COLEMAN:

Is the difficulty that the mines are in the highway or route over which the Team Components from your side must pass after it crosses the Military Demarcation Line in going to the point of the first meeting.

COL WEBER:

The important question upon which your side and our side cannot agree is that the location of the Headquarters of the Military Armistice Commission, Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and the Neutral Nations Supervisory

(CONT'D)

Commission be located astride the Demarcation Line. When this important question is decided, surveys can be made on the sites proposed by your side and our side. As your side and our side are unable to decide this important and controlling question, our side is going to report such fact to the Military Armistice Commission for decision. After that decision is made by the Military Armistice Commission, the Military Armistice Commission can direct this Staff Officers' Meeting to work out the details.

COL JU: I have noted your statement.

COL WEBER: Then we will recess.

COL JU: We agree.

Meeting recessed at 1205 hours.