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U.S. Representative in Committee II on the UN Korean Reconstruction Agency

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UNITED STATES DELEGATION
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release No. 3109
December 8, 1958

Statement by Senator Michael J. Mansfield, United States Representative in Committee II, on the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency.

Mr. Chairman:

The United States Delegation wishes to extend its congratulations to the Agent General of the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency and his staff for their contribution in rebuilding the economy of the Republic of Korea from the ruin and devastation of war. The results achieved are testimony to the combined efforts of the Agency, the government and the people of Korea, and the people of the participating countries whose governments' contributions made this work possible.

The Agency's operation has benefited many sectors of Korea's economy as well as its social development. Assistance and expert advice under this program has resulted in modernization and in impressive advances in industry, communications, housing, community development, agricultural techniques, education and health.

Let me cite just a few striking examples of the impressive work done by the Agency. Between 1952 and June 30, 1958, UNKRA expended over \$11 million in rebuilding and expanding Korean educational facilities and providing equipment. Just during the last twelve months, three vocational training centres were completed. The Agency has spent almost \$5 million for housing. In addition to many important industrial achievements, UNKRA has assisted the restoration of Korea's fisheries, which supply approximately 80 percent of the protein consumed by the Korean people.

Speaking of the Agency's achievements in his letter of September 15, 1958 to the Secretary General, the President of the Republic of Korea said: "Not only are the Agency's completed projects, found throughout our country, visible, lasting evidence of the direct concern of the United Nations for the economic well-being of the Korean people who have endured extraordinary hardships as victims of Communist aggression, they offer clear testimony for the people of the whole world to the fact that the United Nations acts in accordance with the high purpose for which it was established."

General Coulter reports that, with the exception of a few continuing projects being carried out by a skeleton staff, UNKRA came to an end as scheduled on June 30, 1958. We are pleased to note that the Agency's activities during the liquidation period will be under the direction of the Residual Administrator, who has had invaluable experience as Deputy Agent General of UNKRA. Although authorization was given to extend this liquidation period to December 31, 1959 if necessary, it is now hoped that all projects will have been satisfactorily completed somewhat in advance of that date.

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General Coulter deserves the highest praise for his devotion, determination and demonstrated leadership. To these qualities can be attributed in large measure the success of a program which tangibly demonstrated the support and sympathy of free nations for the Republic of Korea - a republic established under the auspices of the United Nations.

Let me turn now to the draft resolution in Document L 404, of which my Delegation has the honor to be a co-sponsor. It has been so well presented by the distinguished Representative of Canada that it remains for me only to express the wholehearted concurrence of my Delegation and our appreciation for Dr. Vivian's excellent presentation. We trust that it will receive general support.

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