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PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

QUESTION OF THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINA IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 14 July 1958 from the Permanent Representative of
India to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 14 July 1958

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India and pursuant to rule 13 (e) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to propose the following item for inclusion in the agenda of the thirteenth regular session of the General Assembly:

"Question of the representation of China in the United Nations."

An explanatory memorandum in terms of rule 20 of the rules of procedure is attached.

(Signed) Arthur S. Lall

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The United Nations as constituted today enjoys the participation of the effective Governments of most of the world. It is self-evident that the Organization can achieve its purposes only if it includes those Governments which are willing and able to fulfil the obligations contained in Articles 2 and 4 of its Charter.

Among the founder-Members of the United Nations is China, and because of its importance in matters relating to international peace and security China is also a permanent member of the Security Council. The representation of China in the United Nations derives its special significance not only from these facts but also from the size of her population, the richness of her resources and the vital contributions she must make to the solution of important issues before the Organization. It cannot be gainsaid that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China is the only Government which exercises effective control over China. The stability of that Government is today undisputed, and it has diplomatic relations with twenty-seven Member States of the United Nations, including two of the permanent members of the Security Council, and has developed normal commercial relations with sixty-eight countries of the world. It has participated in several international conferences, such as the Geneva Conference on the cessation of hostilities in Indo-China and the Asian-African Conference at Bandung. Even though the Central People's Government has so far been prevented from taking its rightful place in the United Nations, its spokesmen have frequently upheld both the Organization and its Charter. For example, the Prime Minister of China spoke strongly in support of the Organization at the Asian-African Conference at Bandung.

It is necessary to consider the question of the representation of China in the United Nations not only from the point of view of the legitimate rights of the Chinese people and their Government, but also from the point of view of the effectiveness of the Organization itself. There is today no doubt that only the People's Government of China is in a position to comply with those decisions or recommendations of the United Nations Organization which affect China specifically or which are addressed to all Member States. In this connexion,

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it may be recalled that speaking in the First Committee at the twelfth session of the General Assembly the distinguished delegate of Australia said that in the opinion of his Government, a disarmament agreement which did not impose suitable obligations on the People's Republic of China would not be of much use in that part of the world. There is little doubt that an effective disarmament agreement which is one of the major and urgent objectives of the United Nations and of all peoples, cannot be reached without the participation of China. The artificial situation whereby one-fourth of the peoples of the world are denied representation in the United Nations cannot but diminish the effectiveness of the Organization.

To make representation in the Organization conditional on the approval by other States of the genesis and the form of a Government or of its administration is not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations itself. This is borne out by the fact that the United Nations has frequently accepted the representatives of revolutionary Governments as the duly accredited representatives of Member States. It will be recalled that the League of Nations too came to see the wisdom of moving toward a realistic universality rather than of excluding certain Governments on the basis of their revolutionary origins. Moreover, after the recent expansion of the membership of the United Nations it would not be consistent to cite as a reason against the correction of the representation of China the existence of a particular resolution.

In view of the aforementioned considerations, and of all the relevant circumstances, the Government of India once again urge that the General Assembly consider the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. Accordingly, they have proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled the "Question of the representation of China in the United Nations".
