

Republic of Korea
August 5, 1992

Intervention by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea

Since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor under your Chairmanship, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on the assumption of the important task of President of the Sub-Commission.

I would like to make a brief intervention, under the Agenda Item 16, on the issue of Korean women abducted or compulsorily displaced by Japanese imperial armed forces during the days of the Second World War.

The government of the Republic of Korea has first and foremost urged the government of Japan, since 1991, to undertake a complete factfinding on the so-called "comfort women" issue, including the role of the Japanese government, and then to take proper follow-up measures.

In compliance with the Korean request, the Japanese government officially recognized its involvement in this sad affair. Nonetheless, it is regrettable that the Japanese government still maintains that they could not find any evidence that would support the fact that any Korean women involved were coerced into serving Japanese soldiers.

This was why for its part the government of the Republic of Korea has embarked on its own thorough investigation into this matter, including the collection of materials, and the filing of statements from women who were victims of this atrocity. An interministerial ad hoc task force was formed for that purpose.

As a result of our investigation, an interim report was published at the end of last month which revealed a very important fact, that coercion was employed in the course of recruiting so-called "comfort women". This report was based on various statistics, copies of Japanese World War II documents, and most importantly, on excerpts of testimony from women who were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

Now that the role of the Japanese government is known ~~correctly~~, my delegation hopes that the Japanese government will further strengthen its factfinding efforts, and take sincere and appropriate follow-up measures which could demonstrate their true feelings of repentance. In addition, it is furthermore hoped that Japanese school textbooks will be corrected, so that Japanese students may become more fully aware of this sad event in world history.

Thank you.