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Reference: C.N.782.2001.TREATIES-6 (Depositary Notification)

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 1966

PROPOSAL OF CORRECTION TO THE ORIGINAL OF THE COVENANT
(CHINESE AUTHENTIC TEXT) AND TO THE CERTIFIED TRUE COPIES

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicates the following:

The attention of the Secretary-General has been drawn by the Government of China to an error relating to the use of the term “Covenant” in the authentic Chinese text of the original of the Covenant as reproduced in the certified true copies circulated by depositary notification C.N.61.1967.TREATIES-1 of 18 May 1967 and in the copies issued on 17 May 1994.

It is recalled that consistent with international law and the practice of the Secretary-General as depositary, corrections to the original text of a treaty may become necessary due to:

- (a) A physical error in typing or printing, spelling, punctuation, numbering, and similar errors;
- (b) A lack of conformity of the original of the treaty with the official records of the diplomatic conference which adopted the treaty; and/or
- (c) A lack of concordance between the different authentic texts constituting the original of the treaty.

..... The annex to this notification contains the text of the proposed correction and an explanatory statement by the Government of China. (*The annex is transmitted in hard copy format only.*)

In accordance with the established depositary practice, unless there is an objection to effecting the proposed correction from a contracting party or signatory State, the Secretary-General proposes to effect, in the relevant articles of the authentic Chinese text of the original of the Covenant, the proposed correction. Such correction would also apply to the certified true copies.

Any objection should be communicated to the Secretary-General no later than 3 January 2002.

5 October 2001

Attention: Treaty Services of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of international organizations concerned.

Handwritten signature or initials in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left and a curved line on the right.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
PACTE INTERNATIONAL RELATIF AUX DROITS CIVILS ET POLITIQUES

[AUTHENTIC CHINESE TEXT - TEXTE AUTHENTIQUE CHINOIS]

In the title and in the text of the Covenant, replace the term:/
Dans le titre et dans le texte du Pacte, remplacer le terme :

“盟約”

By the term:/Par le terme :

“公約”

Explanatory statement by the Government of China:

(Original: English)

“The proposed correction, i.e. to substitute “公約” (gong yue) for “盟約” (meng yue) in the Chinese text, is intended to rectify a lack of concordance between the Chinese text and the other authentic texts. While the term “meng yue” is not a proper translation of “covenant”, the term “gong yue” has long been used as the most appropriate equivalent for “covenant” in all Chinese official documents, academic works as well in the media and has widely been accepted. Although the authentic Chinese text has remained in its present form since its adoption in 1966, the problem arose and became acute only when China started the formal and legal procedure to sign and ratify the said Covenants. China has recently signed the two Covenants and already ratified one of them. The proposed correction is also intended to avoid any unnecessary confusion and to facilitate the dissemination and implementation of the two Covenants in China.

It can be assured that the proposed correction is purely technical in nature and for the purpose of bringing the Chinese text into concordance with other authentic texts only. It will not in any way or manner change the substance of the provisions of the instruments in question. ...”

Déclaration explicative par le Gouvernement chinois :

(Traduction) (Original : anglais)

La correction proposée, à savoir substituer “公約” *gong yue* (convention) à “盟約” *meng yue* (traité d’alliance) dans le texte chinois, vise à remédier au manque de concordance entre le texte chinois et les autres textes authentiques. Si le terme *meng yue* (traité d’alliance) n’est pas une traduction adéquate de “pacte”, le terme *gong yue* (convention) est en revanche utilisé de longue date comme le meilleur équivalent de “pacte” dans tous les documents officiels chinois, les travaux universitaires ainsi que les médias, et il est largement accepté. Si le texte authentique chinois a pu demeurer sous sa forme actuelle depuis son adoption en 1966, c’est que le problème ne s’est posé de façon aiguë que lorsque la Chine a entamé la procédure formelle prévue par sa législation en vue de signer et de ratifier lesdits pactes. Elle les a récemment signés et elle a ratifié l’un d’entre eux. La correction proposée vise également à éviter toute confusion et à faciliter la diffusion et l’application des deux pactes en Chine.

La correction proposée est de nature purement technique et vise essentiellement à aligner le texte chinois sur les autres textes authentiques. Elle ne modifiera en aucune manière le contenu des dispositions des instruments considérés. ...