

October 7, 1969
**UN Press Release, 'UNCURK Releases Report to
General Assembly'**

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Summary:

The UN Press Services released a summary of the UNCURK report. The Commission's report concerned the ROK's willingness for unification, UNCURK's inability to make progress on unification due to DPRK lack of adherence to the authority of the United Nations, security situation, and economic development.

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Press Release KOR/653
7 October 1969

UNCURK RELEASES REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(The following release, prepared by UNCURK, is being issued simultaneously in New York and Seoul.)

The United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) has today released a report to the General Assembly for consideration at its present session. The Assembly has placed the question on its agenda following a request by the Commission's Chairman that it be considered as an important and urgent matter in connexion with the discussion of other items pertaining to Korea.

The six chapters of the Commission's report (document A/7653) deal with the objectives of the United Nations in Korea and the activities of the Commission the question of unification, the problems of security in the area, political and economic developments in the Republic of Korea, and concluding observations.

The Commission observed that there was no significant departure from the basic positions firmly and consistently maintained by the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with respect to the question of unification. The Commission expressed the belief that the Republic of Korea was willing to bring about conditions conducive to the unification of Korea by democratic methods and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions. It observed, however, that there was no similar willingness on the part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to admit the competence and authority of the United Nations in the matter although it professed to desire the attainment of peaceful unification through democratic procedures.

The Commission stated that unless the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was prepared to accept the competence and authority of the United Nations to concern itself with the unification of Korea, the Commission

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remained unable to make any progress whatever in achieving the principal objective of the United Nations in Korea. The Commission nevertheless considered that the United Nations presence in the Republic of Korea remained an important factor in maintaining peace in the area and that the Commission was ready to use its influence and facilities to bring about conditions which could lead to a peaceful settlement of this long outstanding problem, and to effect the unification of the Korean people.

The Commission noted that the security situation in the Korean peninsula since 15 April 1969 had been the subject of considerable reporting, intensive diplomatic activities and bilateral and multilateral communiques. It reported that incidents of intrusion in the Demilitarized Zone south of the Military Demarcation Line and of infiltration into the interior of the Republic of Korea continued to take place in violation of the Armistice Agreement. Those violations included the sending of armed North Korean agents south of the Military Demarcation Line to infiltrate the Republic of Korea, attacks on United Nations Command personnel, and the dispatch of heavily armed infiltration boats into Republic of Korea waters to land subversive agents. The casualties resulting from those incidents during the period 31 March 1969 to 31 August 1969 were 32 North Koreans, 18 United Nations Command personnel and five Republic of Korea civilians killed, 31 United Nations Command personnel wounded and 13 North Koreans apprehended.

The Commission, in its concluding observations, stated that it continued to regard with concern the prevailing tension in the area, which in the main was related to the activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea directed against the security of the Republic of Korea. It observed that, while less in number, those activities took more diverse forms, both in nature and in wider geographical incidence. It noted the use of more sophisticated equipment, particularly in the vessels used for infiltration.

Reviewing economic developments, the Commission noted that the Republic continues to be dedicated to the goal of rapid economic development despite the claims on its resources for defence and internal security. An impressive rate of growth of 13.2 per cent was achieved in 1968 and the Commission observed that current production trends point to its successful continuation in 1969.

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The Republic has sustained its rapid growth, along with removal of sectoral imbalances, by continuously accelerating its rate of investment. Determined efforts are being made to increase the savings in the government sector. However, the Commission stressed, there has been no corresponding increase in aggregate domestic savings.

Like other developing countries, the Republic continues to need resources from abroad. The Commission noted that though merchandise exports continue to register an impressive increase, there is a faster rate of growth in import requirements. The Republic has been successfully decreasing its reliance on foreign grants and attracting foreign investment at a rapidly increasing rate. The Commission observed, in this connexion, that the Republic is currently engaged in a careful assessment of the nature and conditions under which foreign capital is being induced, inasmuch as the repayment burden, in the near future, will be growing at a rate greater than in the past.

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