

December 11, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan**

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari informs Chef de Cabinet of UN C.V. Narasimhan of Park Chung Hee's domestic reforms and the North Korean pilot incident.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 11 December 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

In an attempt to present a better public image of his administration in preparation for the next year's elections, President Park Chung Hee has undertaken this week a number of steps designed to strengthen his hands and to meet mounting criticisms against his ruling Democratic Republican Party. He announced on 9 December 1970 a sweeping reorganization among his top aides and appointed nine new special assistants who will act as advisers on domestic and international policies. The group includes a number of professors and men of academic background whose appointments could be interpreted as an attempt on his side to win the intelligentsia class in the country which very often expresses its opposition to his regime. In addition, he has taken additional steps to root out the widespread corruptions among his government officials and his party hierarchy. Taken together, all these moves may have proved that the President and his party had been taken off-balance by the pre-election campaigns initiated by the opposition New Democratic Party presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, who has introduced in his recent speeches a number of important political issues. On the other hand, the President and his party appeared to be trying to stem the tide in favour of the opposition New Democratic Party. It was interesting, though, that social issues such as the improvement of the rural areas and labourers' conditions and the reduction of taxes have suddenly been espoused by the President and his party while other equally important issues related to defence and security have taken a secondary place. In the judgement of many observers, this shift of emphasis reflects a growing malaise in the country whose rapid economic growth has not yet solved its social problems.

With regard to the incident of the North Korean pilot who had crash-landed with his MIG-15 on the East Coast on 4 December, to which I have referred in my last letter, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea side has asked for his immediate return during the MAC meeting of 5 December. The United Nations Command still reserves its position on this matter in view of the conflicting views between the UNC and the ROK Government. The UNC maintains that, according to its information, the pilot had not "defected" to South Korea as claimed by the Seoul Government, but lost his way and was forced to crash-land in the South Korean territory while

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Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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the ROK Government, obviously for political and domestic reasons, maintains the view that the pilot has indeed "defected". What appears to be at stake from the UNC point of view is its credibility within the provisions of the Armistice Agreement. It is reported to be reluctant to go along with the ROK Government's version of the incident and may indirectly disassociate itself of its repercussion.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary