

**February 27, 1970**

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

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<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/117399>

**Summary:**

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari writes Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan about ROK-Japan relationship: an ROK Foreign Ministry request to ban all trade between DPRK and private Japanese firms and the Japanese allowance of U.S. military bases in Japan on the basis of ROK defense.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 27 February 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Once more this week the ROK-Japan relations have experienced some of their periodic difficulties. On 24 February 1970, the ROK Foreign Ministry sent an official note to the Japanese Government requesting a total ban on all kinds of trade between private Japanese firms and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The note further warned that the continuation of shipment of strategic materials and machineries from Japan to the DPRK would affect the present ROK-Japan relations. On its part, the Japanese Government indicated that no "strategic" materials had ever been shipped to north Korea, and that only normal trade with that country has taken place. It appears that the main motive behind the ROK Government's protest is its concern that some of the exported Japanese machineries to the DPRK has been reportedly used for military purposes. It is unlikely though that the Japanese Government will heed the ROK's protest and curb its trade with north Korea since its policy has always been to distinguish between trade and ideology.

On the other hand, the local press took particular exception in welcoming the remarks made on 23 February by Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato in the House of Representatives that the Japanese Government would consent to U.S. combat operations from Japan under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in the event of "aggression" against south Korea. His remarks have been interpreted here as the clearest ever made by the Japanese Government to allow U.S. bases in Japan to be used for the defence of the Republic of Korea.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Zouheir Kuzbari in cursive.

Zouheir Kuzbari  
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan  
Chef de Cabinet  
United Nations  
New York