

July 22, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Officer-in-Charge Osman to UN Chef
de Cabinet Narasimhan**

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Summary:

Secretary of State Rogers and Ambassador Porter relay to the ROK government the U.S. decision to reduce troops. In reaction, opposing political parties united to urge President Park to press for the cancellation of the reductions.

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

Seoul, 22 July 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The reports that the United States forces in the Republic of Korea would be reduced were confirmed earlier this month. The United States Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, when in Saigon for participation in the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Vietnam War Allies, had talks with the Republic of Korea Foreign Minister, Mr. Choi Kyu Ha, and informed him of the decision of the United States Government to reduce United States troops in the Republic of Korea. Simultaneously, the United States Ambassador in Seoul, Mr. William Porter, called on the Republic of Korea Prime Minister and advised him of the decision. Both United States officials assured the Republic of Korea Government that the United States would fulfil its various commitments for the defence of the Republic.

The decision brought about emergency discussions in high Government circles and in the legislature. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea Military leaders discussed the question with the United States Military Command in Seoul.

The general reaction in the Republic of Korea is that a reduction at this stage would be ill-timed and should be preceded by the modernization of the Republic of Korea defence forces, especially its Air and Naval arms.

The 74th session of the National Assembly which recessed twice, since it convened on 19 June, due to the lack of agreement between the majority and minority parties on the agenda, resumed its work following the announcement by the United States Government of its decision to reduce its forces in Korea. The Democratic Republican Party and the New Democratic Party leadership, in fact, put aside, for the time being, their discords on issues like that of the NDP proposed amendments on the Presidential and National Assembly election laws and compromised on the agenda in order to take up soonest the question of the reduction of the United States forces.

The question was discussed by the National Assembly from 11 to 16 July and the Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution

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

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on the subject (copy attached) to be sent to President Nixon, the United States Senate and the House of Representatives and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Assembly also adopted a message to President Park Chung Hee urging him to press for "the cancellation of the reduction plan ...".

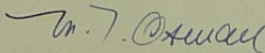
It is understood that the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Rhee Hyo-Sang, forwarded the resolution to Washington and to New York through the Republic of Korea Ambassador to the United States and the Republic of Korea Permanent Observer to the United Nations.

It is believed that in the meeting of the Republic of Korea and United States Military leaders in Seoul held on 11 July, the United States side proposed to take up simultaneously the discussion on the reduction of the United States forces and the modernization of the Republic of Korea defence system. The Republic of Korea side, it is reported, insisted that the modernization of the Republic of Korea forces must precede the reduction of the United States troops in the Republic, reflecting the official position of the Republic of Korea Government.

As you are aware, the third annual conference of the United States-Republic of Korea Defence Ministers has just opened in Honolulu on 21 July. It seems practically certain that the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Korea will do his utmost to ensure the modernization of the Republic of Korea defence forces and obtain as long a delay as possible for the reduction of the United States forces in the Republic.

Japan which has officially taken the view that "the defence situation in Korea is very essential to Japan's own security" has been sympathetic to the Republic of Korea's stand on the reduction of United States troops in Korea but has also made it clear that Japan will not mediate between the United States and the Republic of Korea on this question and will not send Japanese troops for the defence of the Republic of Korea under any circumstances.

Currently there is in progress a ministerial level Republic of Korea-Japan meeting in Seoul in connection with economic matters. However it is believed that this meeting, incidentally, would provide for an exchange of views between the Foreign Minister of Japan, who is leading his delegation, and the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea.



M. I. Osman
Officer-in-Charge

*Message to U.S.***Assembly Resolution**

Following is the full text of a resolution adopted by the National Assembly primary session yesterday opposing the proposed reduction of U.S. troops stationed in Korea. The resolution will be sent to the U.S. government and Congress in the form of a message. — ED.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea,

Having in mind that on the basis of traditional bonds of friendship and close ties of solidarity and partnership existing between the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, the latter has responsibility for mutual defense of the security of the Republic of Korea,

Grateful of the fact that the sublime task of the United Nations to achieve a democratic unification of Korea in accordance with the United Nations Resolutions and the mission of the United Nations forces under U.S. leadership to secure a lasting peace in the Korean peninsula have yet to be accomplished,

In view of the ever-increasing danger of a renewed armed attack from the north, and of the fact that the north Korean Communists, while incessantly concentrating all their efforts on strengthening their armed forces, have been intensifying provocative actions in an attempt to commensurate the entire nation by force during the 1950's.

Keeping also in mind that, at the present stage, any plan to reduce U.S. forces in Korea that runs counter to reality, should not be a theme to be

discussed,

And warning that an abrupt and risky shift of U.S. government policy towards Korea, together with a hasty Korean unification plan may bring about another irreparable tragedy on the Korean peninsula,

Resolves as follows:

(1) It opposes the proposed reduction, under any justification, of the United States forces stationed in Korea, which will weaken deterrent and defense capabilities against an armed attack from north and will invite the bellicosity of the north Korean puppet regime;

(2) In order to sufficiently overwhelm north Korea's reinforced military strength, the United States of America should fulfill, before taking issue of the reduction plan, its repeated pledges made in 1956, on the occasion of the Republic of Korea's dispatching of expeditionary forces to the Republic of Vietnam, in regard to the modernization and augmentation of military equipment for the Republic of Korea armed forces and to the U.S. support to foster the Republic of Korea military logistics industry;

(3) Prior to the proposed reduction of its military forces in Korea, and until such time as the Republic of Korea's self-defense posture be established and the tension in the Far East region be cleared, the United States of America should take all possible diplomatic measures in order to keep the pledges set forth in the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two countries and thereby to firmly secure peace on the Korean peninsula.