

**January 22, 1971**

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

**Citation:**

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<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/117453>

**Summary:**

In connection with the presidential and National Assembly elections, violent clashes between police forces and the opposition NDP have taken place. Accusations from both NDP and DRP are being slung, and the current ruling party DRP is using the fear of potential North Korean subversion to repress the opposition party.

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Original Scan

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 22 January 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The first signs of violence connected with the Presidential and National Assembly elections took place this week in Kanghwa Island, Kyunggi Province, and in Kimpo, Seoul, between members of the opposition New Democratic Party and the local police. The clashes have developed into a political issue which the Home Affairs Committee of the National Assembly is expected to debate soon.

The Government claimed that followers of the opposition party presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, have beaten a number of policemen and took their weapons away. It has also charged the opposition with violation of the Election Laws by staging illegal pre-election campaigns throughout the country. On the other hand, the opposition New Democratic Party has accused the Government of intervening in its public rallies and imposing police surveillance on the activities of its leaders. These incidents, if continued, could influence the atmosphere of the forthcoming elections and give rise to many disturbances.

At the same time, both the Government's Democratic Republican Party and the major opposition New Democratic Party have been exchanging accusations. The New Democratic Party presidential candidate, Kim Dae Jung, stated in his recent speeches that the Government's party may attempt, after the elections, to perpetuate President Park Chung Hee's administration by revising the Constitution and electing him for life or until the national unification is achieved (Something along the line of the Franco regime in Spain). But the Democratic Republican Party reiterated its position

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

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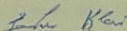
that the opposition has made these accusations in view of its inability to present to the Korean people a strong candidate of President Park's stature.

Of special significance to note in this connexion is the fact that the recently announced list of the ruling Democratic Republican Party nominees for the National Assembly elections mainly include people close to the President himself, which could indicate that the President is determined to have the next National Assembly totally behind him and, through it, to strengthen his personal authority.

As expected in these election situations, external elements are widely exploited. The Republic of Korea President warned in his recent address that the North Koreans may take advantage of any disturbances during the forthcoming elections, but the opposition pointed out that the Government has developed this line in order to justify its repressive actions against the opposition on the pretext of national security.

With my warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari  
Principal Secretary