

June 18, 1971

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

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Summary:

Kuzbari updates Narasimhan on the UN Command's proposal to clear the DMZ for civilian use, the need to validate ROK's accusations against North Korean seaborne attacks, Japan's view that ROK should adapt to communist China's entry into the UN, and the changing liberal attitude of the Korean people in regards to unification.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 18 June 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The U.N. Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea held its fourth session of the year in Hakone, Japan, on 14 and 15 June 1971, under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador J.Q. Bas Backer, who also announced during the session that he will be retiring from his country's diplomatic service at the beginning of July.

The first meeting of the session was devoted to a general review of the security situation in the Republic of Korea. Particular emphasis during the discussion was given to the new proposals made on 12 June 1971 by Major-General F.M. Rogers, Senior Member of the U.N. Command on the Military Armistice Commission, at Panmunjom to clear the Demilitarized Zone of all military fortifications and designate the area for civilian use. It was the consensus of opinion that these proposals were aimed at removing a major source of tension in the Demilitarized Zone and, therefore, should be supported by the United Nations. It was also agreed that such proposals must be further explored with the U.N. Command in order to allow the Commission to express its views thereon. The members also exchanged views on the reported seaborne acts of infiltrations on the part of the North Korean agents and were of the view that the information provided by the Government of the Republic of Korea on these incidents was not adequate and needs to be thoroughly substantiated. They also pointed out that the situation in the Demilitarized Zone over the last six months has been calm and that the redeployment of the Republic of Korea troops along the portion of the Demilitarized Zone manned formerly by the United States troops has gone on smoothly without any incident.

As to the domestic political situation, the members of the Commission reviewed the outcome of the presidential and National Assembly elections which had been held in April and May respectively in the Republic of Korea and the following Cabinet changes as a result of those elections. The Chairman of the Commission, also

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

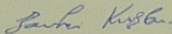
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the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Japan, gave his assessment of the Korean situation as seen from Tokyo, and said that the Government of Japan does not wish any changes in the present status quo in the Korean peninsula. However, he emphasized that, with the issue of China representation at the United Nations assuming now a larger dimension, it is the view of the Japanese Government that the new regime of President Park Chung Hee should adapt itself to the rapid changes in East Asia and to demonstrate greater flexibility in its old anti-communist stand. The Representative of Australia, Ambassador A.H. Loomes, drew the attention of the members to the fact that the question of unification has played an important part during the last presidential and parliamentary elections and the fact that at least 40% of the population have voted for the policies of the opposition New Democratic Party presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, on the question of peaceful exchanges with North Korea as well as the obtaining of the four-power guarantee for the security of the Republic of Korea indicated clearly that the new mood in South Korea is for a more liberal attitude on the question of unification. The Representative of Australia also expressed the hope that at a later date the United Nations, particularly the Commission, would be in a position to encourage and promote these changes.

With regard to the general theme of the Commission's forthcoming report to the twenty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Representative of Turkey, Ambassador B.N. Kestelli, suggested the inclusion of reference to students' demonstrations before and after the general elections. He also stated that the Commission should take note of the continued absence of Pakistan from participating in its work since 1968. The Commission has directed the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary draft of the report to be discussed by its Committee during the month of July and the Commission has decided to reconvene on 4 August 1971 in order to finalise and sign it.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary