

September 17, 1971

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

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<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/117500>

Summary:

Director-General of the National Red Cross of Korea Chang Woo Chu informally asks UNCURK to participate in North-South Red Cross talks. UNCURK committee decides their participation may harm the delicate situation.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

17 September 1971

RED CROSS NEGOTIATIONS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

On 10 September 1971, during our overlap with Mr. Kuzbari, Mr. Chang Woo Chu, Director-General, Korea National Red Cross (KNRC), North-South Conference, visited Mr. Kuzbari. Mr. Chang was accompanied by Mr. Chun Yon Yoon, his Public Relations Assistant. The appointment for the visit had been requested on the previous day.

After amenities, Mr. Chang informed Mr. Kuzbari of the intended "decision" of the ROK Red Cross Delegation to the Panmunjom talks to "ask" its DPRK counterpart "to have UNCURK participate in the talks either in Seoul or in Pyongyang".

Mr. Kuzbari recalled to the attention of the ROK Red Cross officials the recent Press Release of UNCURK issued in respect of the commencement of the Panmunjom negotiations (text of press release attached).

Mr. Kuzbari and I stressed to the visitors that the "decision" of the ROK side, thus "informally conveyed to the Principal Secretary, would be brought to the attention of the members of UNCURK for their consideration".

Emphasizing the most delicate and formative nature of the talks, we asked Mr. Chang as to when his side proposed to implement its intended decision. In response to the inference, he replied that the ROK side was aware of the DPRK's stance toward UNCURK and would hence hesitate to bring the matter of UNCURK participation with the DPRK side at this stage for fear of risking the discontinuation of the Red Cross negotiations.

Mr. Chang then expressed his intention to request a meeting with members of UNCURK either at the ROK Red Cross Office or at UNCURK Headquarters. Mr. Kuzbari reminded him that past practice would seem to indicate preference for having the proposed meeting at UNCURK, naturally upon the decision and invitation by UNCURK if and when this occurred.

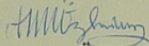
Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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Mr. Kuzbari and I brought the matter informally to the attention of the members prior to the Committee meeting on 16 September. When I presented the matter formally at the said meeting, the members expressed agreement as to the delicate nature of the intended ROK Red Cross approach. Three members meanwhile had been visited by Mr. Chang. The consensus of the meeting was that a visit to UNCURK should at this time be discouraged as it had been indeed discouraged during Mr. Chang's visit with the Principal Secretary and the individual calls on three of the Representatives.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE
UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREAPress Release
No. 71/9Seoul, Republic of Korea
18 August 1971

The Committee of UNCURK, in the course of its meeting today, 18 August 1971, chaired by the Representative of Thailand, Ambassador Chote Klongvicha, considered the statement made on 12 August by the president of the Korean National Red Cross, ROK, in which he proposed to hold discussions with the north Korean Red Cross representatives with a view to initiating a campaign for the search of separated families in southern and northern Korea, and the use of good offices for their reunion. It also noted the statement made on 14 August by the Chairman of the Central Committee, Red Cross Society, DPRK, accepting the proposal as well as putting forward other proposals for the exchange of visits and correspondence between family members, relatives and friends.

The Committee of UNCURK, acting within its mandate and in the spirit of United Nations General Assembly resolutions regarding the unification of Korea, welcomes this development and expresses its hope for the success of these proposed discussions.