

April 11, 1969

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

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea Zouheir Kuzbari writes to Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations C.V. Narasimhan a letter concerning a vote of no-confidence against Education Minister Oh Byong Kwon and its implications for President Park Chung Hee, the United Nations Command's rejected proposal to North Korea about reducing tensions in the DMZ, and administrative information about the UNCURK Committee.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 11 April 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

President Chung Hee Park has faced this week his first political crisis when about 44 members of his own ruling Democratic Republican Party voted along with the opposition New Democratic Party for a motion of non-confidence against Education Minister Oh Byong Kwon. In the twenty-year history of the Korean National Assembly, Minister Kwon was the second Cabinet member ever to be thrown out by a vote of non-confidence. The charges made against him were related to certain reforms which had been introduced and which some members of the National Assembly did not approve.

The significance of this incident is that the action itself has demonstrated that the President may be losing his grip on his own party and, therefore, may not be able in the future to count on the majority members of the National Assembly if constitutional amendments allowing him to run for a third consecutive term are to be approved by the Assembly. However, political observers here tend to discount the importance of this incident and believe that the President would be able to handle this "dissident group".

In another move related to this development, the President instructed members of his party disciplinary committee to punish those "anti-party dissidents". At the same time he has accepted the resignations of the majority floor leader and two deputy floor leaders for their failure to maintain the party unity.

Other interesting developments this week include a very unusual MAC meeting. The United Nations Command proposed to north Korea at the MAC meeting held on 10 April 1969 to discuss practical means to reduce the current state of tension within the DMZ, but the north Korean side refused to consider the UNC

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

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proposal. This MAC meeting has been described as the longest meeting since the end of the Korean War. It began at 11 a.m. and lasted for 11 hours and 38 minutes. During this meeting the UNC Senior Member, Air Force Major-General J.B. Knapp, called on the north Koreans to co-operate on any bilateral action to solve the DMZ problems, but his request received no response. At 6:45 p.m. during the course of the meeting, Major-General Lee Chun Sun, the north Korean Delegate, froze the meeting when he refused to answer General Knapp's question whether the north Koreans had any intention to discuss the de-escalation issue in the DMZ at the next MAC meeting. Both sides stayed in silence until 10:38 p.m. when the north Korean Delegate walked out and said "obviously there is no need for this meeting to continue...!!".

UNCURK Committee

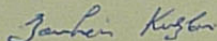
The Committee met yesterday and discussed the economic chapter of the Commission's report as well as its final observations related to the report.

As per my cable UNKOR-40 of 11 April 1969 to Mr. Ismat Kittani with regard to the Chilean representation on the Commission, Ambassador Marambio called me from Tokyo on the same day and officially informed me that he would attend the forthcoming session of UNCURK. I believe that this arrangement is more convenient to us since we are better able to get in touch with the Chilean representative when he is in Tokyo than when he is in Manila.

Arrangements have also been finalized for the Commission to make a field trip in the country at the conclusion of its session.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary