

January 29, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning the First
Full Session of UNCURK for 1970**

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the UNCURK Commission's review of major political, economic, and security developments. Pakistan's representative was absent.

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

Seoul, 29 January 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The first full session of UNCURK was convened for this year in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January, under the chairmanship of the Representative of Chile, Ambassador Augusto Marambio. It was attended by all the representatives except the Pakistan's, who failed this time to inform the Secretariat of his inability to participate.

The session was primarily called in order to review all the major political, economic and security developments in the Republic of Korea since the submission of the Commission's last report to the General Assembly in September 1969 and to also lay the groundwork for the current year.

During its discussion of the political situation in the ROK, views were expressed in regard to the present stability of President Chung Hee Park's regime. Ambassador A.H. Loomes, Representative of Australia, pointed out that, while there has been no alternative to the leadership of President Park, yet his one-man rule is not definitely a healthy development. He also noted that, since the outcome of the National Referendum (October 1969) on the constitutional amendment, the ROK President seemed to have assumed larger power than before. Ambassador C. Klongvicha, Representative of Thailand, referred to the present paralysis in the work of the National Assembly because of the boycott of the opposition New Democratic Party of its session and stated that the ruling Democratic Republican Party may initiate the formation of a new and strong cabinet which would prepare the ground for the 1971 presidential election.

Members of the Commission have also paid particular attention to the present lull along the Demilitarized Zone. It was pointed out that, contrary to 1968, the last part of 1969 has been absolutely devoid of any serious incidents. Different interpretations were given by the members in this regard. The Representative of Turkey, Ambassador B.N. Kestelli, stated that the acts

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

- 2 -

of infiltration by north Korean agents into south Korea within the last two years have gone through three stages: a) infiltration through the DMZ; b) by sea; and c) through Japanese ports. The Australian Representative described the present lull as merely a change of tactics on the part of the north Koreans from paramilitary raids witnessed in October 1968 into infiltrating political and student organizations in the south.

Touching on the overall security aspects in the Korean peninsula, the Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador J.Q. Bas Backer, expressed the view that there are no indications at present pointing out to a change in the attitude of the Soviet Union Government, which is to maintain the present status quo in Korea. He also inquired whether the U.S. Government intends to withdraw its two divisions in south Korea as a part of an eventual military disengagement in East Asia. The Representative of Australia stated in this regard that there has been a tendency on the part of the ROK Government to allege an increase in the number of north Korean acts of infiltrations in order to ensure the presence of the U.S. forces in the south.

In discussing its programme of work for this year, the Commission decided that a report covering a period from September 1969 to mid-May 1970 should be addressed to the U.N. Secretary-General, and another one, also to be addressed to the Secretary-General, during the latter part of August 1970 prior to the General Assembly session. Consequently, the Commission decided to reconvene on 11 May 1970 in Seoul in order to discuss and sign the first report to be prepared by the Committee. It also decided to undertake an inspection trip around the country during the session.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary