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

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the alleged Japanese government and DPRK commercial firm's germs deal.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 13 February 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The alleged "germs deal" between a Japanese firm and north Korean commercial representatives, to which I have referred in my letter dated 6 February 1970, has now become a "hot" political issue here. Despite denials on the part of the Japanese Government that there was no evidence that a Japanese firm has received orders from north Korean trade agents for shipping to north Korea of colonies of cholera bacilli, the ROK Government nevertheless persisted this week in whipping up an anti-Japanese campaign in the press and in focussing the World's attention on this issue. As I have reported to you earlier, the ROK Government has implicitly blamed the north Koreans for the outbreak of cholera epidemic in the West Coast of south Korea last September and continued this week to direct the attention of its citizens on this aspect of the situation. Mass rallies were held in public squares denouncing this action and the National Assembly, despite the boycott of the opposition New Democratic Party, is expected to hold a joint session to discuss this issue of the "germs warfare".

On its part, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government stated on 5 February that "it has placed no order for contagious germs with a Japanese firm", and described the "germs deal" as a "malicious slander" by the U.S., Japan and south Korea to "whip up a war hysteria". It has further accused the Japanese and the ROK Governments of "inventing the absurd lie of germs deal in order to abuse the DPRK". It is generally believed here that the anti-DPRK campaign in the press and the information media of the ROK could have delayed the release of the Korean Air Lines' passengers whom the north Korean authorities announced a week ago that they would be released soon.

The Committee of UNCURK discussed this issue during its meeting on 10 February, but took no action. Its members though have expressed certain reservations about the authenticity of the ROK's reports about the involvement of the DPRK in the last year's cholera outbreak and pointed out that it was not in the interest of the Republic to overblow this case.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Zouheir Kuzbari".

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York