

August 7, 1970

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

Citation:

"Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan", August 7, 1970, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0003-06, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

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Summary:

ROK government consents to US troop withdrawals in exchange for a modernization program of ROK forces and a public statement from US about their continued support and protection of the ROK. Additionally, Park Chung Hee visits South Vietnam and confirms the presence of ROK troops until the end of the war.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

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Seoul, 7 August 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Bilateral talks continued this week between the representatives of the Republic of Korea and the United States with regard to the question of the reduction of U.S. forces in the Republic of Korea. There were signs that the strong opposition made by President Park Chung Hee, and reflected in the statements by Government officials and the Press, has given way to a compromise between the two sides.

In an unpublished meeting held between the President, on the one side, and the United States Ambassador to Seoul, and the Commander-in-Chief of U.N. Forces, on the other, (August 5), it became known that the Republic of Korea has consented to a withdrawal of some twenty thousand U.S. troops from the Republic of Korea by the end of 1971 in return for a massive modernization programme of the ROK forces, including building small defence industries. During the same meeting, the ROK President insisted that the U.S. Government should make an official public statement to the effect that the United States will automatically come to the defence of the Republic of Korea according to the U.S.- R.O.K. Mutual Security Treaty in case of an outside armed attack. However, the United States side made it clear that on this aspect the United States Government cannot undertake such a pledge without the approval of the United States Congress.

As a result of this softening in the ROK attitude towards the question of the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea, the joint ROK-US ad hoc committees in charge of conducting the talks on modernising the ROK forces, have resumed their meetings which had been in abeyance for a short time.

In another development related to this aspect of the deamericanization policy of Asia, talks were held this week between the visiting Prime Minister of South Vietnam, Tran Thiem Khiem, and his counterpart of the Republic of Korea, Prime Minister Chung Il Kwon. It is generally believed that both the

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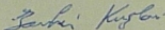
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Republic of Korea and the South Vietnamese Governments have expressed misgivings about the accelerated way in which the U.S. military disengagements in Asia is taking place.

As to the future of the ROK troops in Vietnam, it was reported that President Park Chung Hee has affirmed to the visiting South Vietnamese Prime Minister, when he called on him yesterday, that the ROK troops will remain in Vietnam until the end of the war.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary