

June 4, 1971

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

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Summary:

Park Chung Hee reshuffles his Cabinet and is possibly preparing newly appointed Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil as his possible successor. Additionally, after criticisms from the opposition party, Park continues to relax laws against socialist countries.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 4 June 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

President Park Chung Hee has taken this week an additional step following the end of the general elections to secure the establishment of an administration which is expected to reflect the distribution of power inside the newly-elected National Assembly. By nominating on 3 June 1971 his close associate Kim Jong Pil, Vice-Chairman of the ruling Democratic Republican Party, as the new Prime Minister, he is believed to be preparing Kim for a larger role in the future and, possibly, to succeed him when his term expires in 1975. Mr. Kim Jong Pil, who master-minded the 1961 military coup and who also organized the ruling Democratic Republican Party during its early stages, has a somewhat chequered relation with President Park. Both have weathered the early stormy and difficult days of the revolution and co-operated closely during the first term of President Park, but differed on the issue of the constitutional amendment permitting President Park to run for the third term. Mr. Kim Jong Pil made a come-back into the political scene during the National Referendum of 1969 and participated vigorously in the recent campaign for the re-election of President Park, and it is generally assumed that the two powerful men have come to an understanding on the issue of succession. In the opinion of most political observers here, President Park would not have appointed Kim Jong Pil as the Prime Minister and would not be preparing the latter as his successor had he not realized that, now with the opposition New Democratic Party mustering more than 1/3 of the seats in the National Assembly, it is virtually impossible for him to amend the Constitution again and to run for a fourth term. In a sense, the President is implementing his promise now not to run for the presidential election in 1975, but at the same time he is preparing the groundwork for his protege to take over the presidency if the latter's administrative and political abilities could be successfully tested.

The main question at present is to see whether the new powerful Prime Minister can steer his way among members of his Democratic Republican Party and come to an understanding with the opposition New Democratic Party for a smooth functioning of the National Assembly.

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

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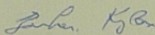
By this nomination, the President appears to have given Kim a chance to prove his capabilities and should he succeed in tackling the many difficult problems facing the Republic of Korea during that period, it is conceivable that he may emerge as a strong candidate for the 1975 presidential election.

Among the new members of the reshuffled Cabinet, is Mr. Kim Young Shik, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and a veteran diplomat who also held the portfolio of the Foreign Ministry in 1963.

While these cabinet changes were made public this week, there have also been some interesting and significant trends in the foreign policies of the country. Obviously reacting to the mounting criticisms of the opposition New Democratic Party about the immobility and rigidity of the foreign policies of the Republic of Korea and, in particular, its relations with the socialist countries, President Park has ordered this week further relaxation of the laws permitting foreign-flag ships including those of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland to call at the South Korean ports. In the past, the Government banned all ships from the communist countries to enter South Korea. The ban, however, still remains in effect on those ships from North Korea, Cuba, Communist China and North Viet-Nam. On the other hand, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the opposition candidate of the New Democratic Party for the last presidential election, resumed his attacks against the administration of President Park and called for a revision of the Anti-Communist Law in order to secure better freedom for the press and political organizations. He again called on President Park to give serious consideration to his proposals during the recent presidential election campaign for peaceful exchanges between North and South Korea.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary