

December 6, 1972
**Letters between Ahmet H. Ozbudun and C.V.
Narasimhan**

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Summary:

Ozbudun sends Narasimhan a letter reporting on North-South Co-ordinating Committee, forthcoming elections, and next session of UNCURK.

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cc. Mr. L.N. Kutakov

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
UNCURK

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 December 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

6 December 1972

Your previous letter for this week includes the following:

REHABILITATION OF DISAPPEARED CITIZENS

Your letter of 28 Sept. after the meeting of 4 July 1972 dealt with the issue of the rehabilitation of the North-South Disappearing Citizens who were in Seoul. This Committee was first set up at the 1964 meeting at Bonn.

Dear Ahmet,

I have received your confidential letter No. 171 of 1 December in which you detail the relevant topics for the week. The contents have been noted.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

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

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL No. 171

1 December 1972

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Most relevant topics for this week include the following:

NORTH-SOUTH CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Four months and 26 days after the historic 4 July 1972 Joint-Communiqué and the third session of Co-Chairmen of the North-South Co-ordinating Committee held yesterday in Seoul, this Committee was finally formed and held its first meeting at once.

Reports have it that the overall atmosphere as of the arrival in the morning of the 25-men Northern team and during the aforesaid talks was most cordial. Participants on both sides are said to be much elated regarding the future.

Today's meeting is expected to deal with delicate matters concerning the operation of the high-powered Committee and formation of pertinent sub-committees.

The 10-men Co-ordinating Committee is slated to meet about once every two or three months while a six-men secretaries conference, yet to be established, will meet every month. Moreover, a joint secretariat office in Panmunjom will keep the contact going in between these meetings.

Contrary to my expectation, there is as yet no news about President Park's meeting with Northern delegates. This, however, might still take place today or tomorrow.

While both Acting Co-Chairman Park Sung Chul of the North and Co-Chairman Lee Hu Rak of the South expressed remarkable optimism at an evening dinner reception, the latter described the functions of the Co-ordinating Committee as follows: It would (i) endeavour to consolidate mutual understanding between the South and North; (ii) materialize interchanges between the two sides in all fields; and (iii) spare no effort to expedite national unification by eliminating barriers between the South and North and by carrying out projects through joint efforts in all fields. Mr. Park, in his reply, deemed most

Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
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bright the prospects of joint efforts in the political, economic, cultural, military and diplomatic fields which he said would advance the cause of peaceful unification.

Despite the foregoing, some members of the Government and the diplomatic corps find it difficult to commit themselves to optimism. They believe 1973 to be decisive either for the eventual success or the stalemate or breakdown of the contacts. Naturally, much will depend on the actual implementation of agreements thus far reached, not only at the Co-ordinating Committee level but in the Red Cross talks.

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The election for 2359 deputies who will form the National Conference for Unification will be held on 15 December. UNCURK members have yet to decide on the matter of observation. However, I anticipate that they will. The Chairman of the ROK Central Election Management Committee is due to brief the members on 6 December and may be expected to convey an invitation for observation.

The relatively limited scope of observation of the recent National Referendum and drastic measures of economy on our part have saved us enough to dispense with a request for additional funds for the prospective observation of the forthcoming NCU elections. However, I should like to alert you that we may have to ask for supplementary funds for our 1973 budget if and when UNCURK observes the National Assembly elections early next year. Needless to say, I will endeavour with my best to save enough from other areas of our drum-tight budget to avoid such request.

Since no government agency has translated the National Conference for Unification law, I have requested our research section to do the job. I hope to pouch two copies with next week's pouch.

As you know, the NCU will wield extensive powers including the preparation and approval of unification policies and the election of both the President and one-third of National Assemblymen upon the former's recommendation. The President will reportedly be elected on 23 December and inaugurated on the 27th.

Many who have criticized the National Referendum, especially because it was held under Martial Law, hope that this Law would be lifted or at least suspended for the NCU elections. They are slightly optimistic in view of the decision on 28 November to re-open colleges and universities throughout the country. The aforesaid critics doubt that even the lifting or suspension of the Martial Law would ~~not~~ increase free choice as they expect all or most candidates to be committed to the October Revitalization Reforms.

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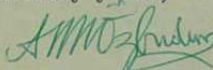
NEXT SESSION OF U.N.C.U.R.K.

The fifth and final session of the Commission for 1972 will be held on Monday, 4 December. The Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Th. P. Bergsma, is expected to arrive on Sunday.

* * *

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Ahmet H.H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary