

April 19, 1969

**Letter, UN Chef de Cabinet C.V. Narasimhan to Mr.
Jean Gazarian, Concerning UNCURK Report**

Citation:

"Letter, UN Chef de Cabinet C.V. Narasimhan to Mr. Jean Gazarian, Concerning UNCURK Report", April 19, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0002-04, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117256>

Summary:

Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations writes to Mr. Jean Gazarian in acknowledgement of his receipt of the 25 August 1968 to 19 April Report of UNCURK and Principal Secretary of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea Zouheir Kuzbari's letter. Kuzbari's letter concerns the ROK's and UNCURK's reaction to the shooting down of U.S. reconnaissance plane by North Koreans.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

File Korea

23 April 1969

CVN/nt

Mr. Jean Gazarian

C. V. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet ✓

23 April 1969

UNCURK Report 1968-1969

Dear Kuzbari,

I wish to draw your attention to my acknowledgement to Mr. Kuzbari of his letter dated 19 April from which I attach relevant extracts.

I also attach copy of the draft press release to be released simultaneously at Headquarters and in Seoul.

I shall be grateful if you could ensure that the procedure requested by Mr. Kuzbari is followed.

cc - Mr. Kittani
Mr. Sivasankar

Yours sincerely,

C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Kuzbari
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

cc - Mr. Kittani
Mr. Gazarian
Mr. Sivasankar

UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

CVH/nt

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE REUNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(KOREANS)CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 19 April 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

25 April 1969

This week has been unusually tense in the Republic of Korea in view of the U.S. reconnaissance plane incident on 16 April and its impact on the overall situation here.

Dear Kuzbari,

On 16 and 17 April, President Chung Hee Park met with members of the ROK National Security Council and discussed the situation. I acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter dated 19 April. I have taken note of its contents.

Regarding the Report of UNCURK, I send herewith an acknowledgement from the Secretary-General to the Chairman of the Commission.

On 18 April, the situation appeared calmer when it became known that the U.S. Government was trying to calm the situation. We shall inform you in due course of the Secretary-General's decision regarding possible circulation of the Report among Member States.

It was obvious on 18 April that the Military Armistice Commission, with kind regards, been chosen again to state the U.S. points of view on the plane incident thus again providing a "breathing spell" in the crisis.

Yours sincerely,

There were many speculations here as to the real motives behind the north Koreans' action to shoot down the reconnaissance plane. One significant piece of information was related to me through a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, who was in close contact with his Chinese colleagues on the Commission. He stated that the north Korean army has been put under a state of complete combat readiness thus giving the impression that the north Koreans were expecting, before shooting the plane, an immediate retaliatory action from the U.S. Government. On the other hand, the north Korean action is that it was a surprise. Mr. Zouheir Kuzbari, as during the public incident, the Principal Secretary, UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chief de Cabinet

United Nations
New York
cc - Mr. Kittani
Mr. Gazarian
Mr. Sivasankar

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 19 April 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

This week has been unusually tense in the Republic of Korea in view of the U.S. reconnaissance plane incident on 16 April and its impact on the overall situation here.

On 16 and 17 April, President Chung Hee Park met with members of the ROK National Security Council and discussed with them all measures to be taken to secure the defence of the country. In his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the ROK forces, he ordered all the front line troops as well as the ROK air force to be combat-ready. The United Nations Command, on its part, has put all its air and naval forces on alert. On 18 April, the situation appeared calmer when it became known that the U.S. Government was trying to avoid being drawn into an unpredictable situation.

It was obvious on 18 April that the Military Armistice Commission's machinery has been chosen again to state the U.S. points of view on the plane incident thus again providing a "breathing spell" in the crisis.

There were many speculations here as to the real motives behind the north Koreans' action to shoot down the reconnaissance plane. One significant piece of information was related to me through a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, who was in close contact with his Czech and Polish colleagues on the Commission. He stated that prior to that plane incident, the north Korean army has been put under a state of complete combat readiness thus giving the impression that the north Koreans were expecting, before shooting the plane, an immediate retaliatory action from the U.S. Government. On the other hand, the general view held here on the north Korean action is that it has meant to undermine again, as during the Pueblo incident, the

/...

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

- 2 -

credibility of the U.S. Government to protect south Korea. During a private briefing given by General Bonesteel to the members of UNCURK on 18 April, he stated that the UNC will do everything it can to avoid any open hostility between north and south Korea. He also emphasized that, by simply taking appropriate and adequate defensive measures, it is hoped that the defence posture in south Korea could deter the north Koreans from embarking on a "reckless" military adventure. On the other hand he has voiced his concern that the recent changes in the north Korean hierarchy indicate an increasingly influential role by the Central Committee of the Communist Party over the armed forces and purging the north Korean army of its professional military cadre. As to the external influence on north Korea, General Bonesteel believes that the north Korean regime has shaped its own "independent" communist line, and that neither the Soviet Union nor Communist China could exercise an influence over north Korea.

As the situation stands now, it is being closely watched by everybody to see how the north Korean authorities will react to the U.S. Government's decision to resume its reconnaissance flights. The nature of the military build-up here is of a defensive character and does not appear to be more than meeting an immediate crisis.

// UNCURK session

The coincidence by the holding of UNCURK session on 18 April and the incident of shooting down of the U.S. reconnaissance plane has given the session an added significance in view of the general mandate given to the Commission to observe trends affecting the security of the area. However, the Commission, after having studied all the official documents related to the plane incident, decided to include one factual reference to it in its report and to await further developments.

The Commission convened on 18 and 19 April under the chairmanship of the representative of Thailand and was attended by all the representatives except the representative of Pakistan who again cabled me on 14 April, informing of his inability to attend the session.

/...

- 3 -

.....
The Commission discussed and approved the draft of its report to the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2466 (XXIII). It signed the report on 19 April and I enclose herewith six copies of the signed copies together with the letter of transmittal from the Chairman of the session. You will notice that the emphasis of this report is on problems of security and, in particular, acts of infiltrations to which the Commission has been following constantly.

.....
Also enclosed please find a copy of Press Release No. 69/4 which was adopted by the Commission on the general theme of its report to the Secretary-General. The press release is to be issued simultaneously at United Nations Headquarters and in Seoul should the Secretary-General decide on circulating the report among the Member States.

My attention has been drawn by the ROK Foreign Minister to the courtesy for providing his Government with a copy of the report at least one day prior to its circulation. You would remember that last time we had some unfortunate experience due to an oversight and we were not informed in advance of the release of the Commission's report. We do hope this time that necessary steps will be taken to inform us ahead of time on the date of releasing the report and the press release related to it.

.....
I am also enclosing herewith a copy of Press Release No. 69/3 regarding the session. The Commission decided in principle to hold its next session in Japan on 16 and 17 June 1969.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

11

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

CVN/nt

23 April 1969

Handwritten: 24-4-69

Seoul, 19 April 1969

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 19 April with which you transmitted to me the Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, covering the period from 25 August 1968 to 19 April 1969.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

the period from 25 August 1968 to 19 April 1969.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant

Chote Klongvichit

Chote Klongvichit
Chairman

His Excellency Mr. Chote Klongvichit

Chairman, UNCORK

Seoul, Korea

U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

cc - Mr. Kuzbari
Mr. Kittani
Mr. Gazarian
Mr. Lemieux

(original memo)

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)*Done
22/4/69*

Seoul, 19 April 1969

Excellency,

.....

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2466 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Report of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, covering the period from 25 August 1968 to 19 April 1969.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Chote Klongvicha.
Chote Klongvicha
Chairman

His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York