

December 5, 1969

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning the
Release of US Army Helicopter Crew Members**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117361>

Summary:

Principal Secretary of the UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on ROK officials' reaction to the UN Command's apology statement towards the DPRK, which came amid the DPRK's hold of three US Army helicopter crew members.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION OF KOREA
(UNCKURK)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Seoul, 5 December 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

You may recall that I informed you in my letter of 11 October 1969 about the progress made and made of the **10 December 1969** meeting that took place -- between the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) quarters -- in Panmunjom between the senior UNK member on the UNK, Major-General Arthur T. Adams and the North Korean member, Major-General **My dear Kuzbari,**

I acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter of 5 December; I have taken note of its contents.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

The signing of this document, although requested later on, was

Mr. Z. Kuzbari
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

Mr. Z. Kuzbari
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 5 December 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

You may recall that I informed you in my letter of 31 October 1969 about the progress that was made in the secret meetings held during that month -- outside the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters -- in Panmunjom between the senior UNC Member on the MAC, Major-General Arthur H. Adams and the north Korean Member, Major-General Ri Choon Sun, in order to find a formula for the release of crew members of the U.S. Army helicopter which had been shot down in north Korea on 17 August 1969. Those meetings have resulted in the release on 3 December 1969 of the three helicopter crewmen after General Adams was authorized to sign a document, a copy of which is herewith attached, in which it was stated that: "The United Nations Command side assumes full responsibility, solemnly apologizes for having violated the Armistice Agreement and seriously infringed upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by infiltrating on August 17, 1969 a military aircraft deep into the territorial air of the northern half of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea". Upon the return of the crew members, a UNC spokesman made a statement in which he said that General Adams signed the document "in the humanitarian interest of securing the release of the men".

The signing of this document, although repudiated later on, was greatly criticized by ROK officials who have interpreted it as contradicting to the United Nations' basic resolutions on Korea and have pointed out that, by referring in the said document to the infiltration of a U.S. military aircraft deep into the territorial air of the northern half of the DPRK, the U.N. Command has committed the great error of unwittingly recognizing the sovereignty of the DPRK as extending over all Korea. They have also argued that, although the said document was signed in order to free the three U.S. military personnel, it has nevertheless gone beyond the formula under which the "Pueblo" crew members were released last year. Representative Cha Ji Chul, Chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed 'shock' over this document and described it as "an act of national disgrace". He also stated that his Committee would question the Government about it.

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

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Mr. Carlos Diemer, Chilean Chargé d'Affaires in Seoul, called on me on 2 December 1969 and informed me that, on the recommendation of Ambassador Augusto Marambio, Representative of Chile on UNCURK, the Chilean Government has agreed to the former's appointment as the Alternate Representative on the Commission and that it has already instructed the Chilean mission in New York to inform the Secretary-General accordingly. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you could kindly send me a copy of his credential as soon as possible.

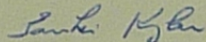
Thus, the Committee of UNCURK in Seoul appears to represent all the countries on the Commission with the exception of Pakistan.

In the meantime, Mr. R.M. North, Alternate Representative of Australia, left Seoul on 28 November 1969 upon completion of his assignment. We also would appreciate it if you could send us a copy of his replacement's credential.

The current Chairman of the Committee of UNCURK, Ambassador B.N. Kestelli of Turkey, proposed last week the postponement of the Commission session, which had originally been scheduled to be held in Japan on 14 January to 21 January 1970, and all the members have already concurred to this proposal. Consequently, the first session of the Commission will take place in Tokyo on 21 January 1970. The Commission is expected to discuss the outline of a spring report to be addressed to the Secretary-General.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

To: Korean People's Army side

The United Nations Command side assumes full responsibility, solemnly apologizes for having violated the Armistice Agreement and seriously infringed upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by infiltrating on August 17, 1969 a military aircraft deep into the territorial air of the northern half of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and firmly guarantees that it will not commit such a criminal act again in the future and that it will strictly abide by the Armistice Agreement, requesting the Korean People's Army side to send back the pilots of the "OH-23G" helicopter which was shot down by the self-defence measures of the Korean People's Army.

Major General Arthur H. Adams
U.S. Marine Corps
Senior Member
United Nations Command side
Military Armistice Commission