



October 9, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning ROK
Security and Political Developments**

Citation:

"Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning ROK Security and Political Developments", October 9, 1970, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0003-02, 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/117372>

Summary:

Principal Secretary of the UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari informs Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the recent attacks from North Korean infiltrators, modernization of ROK military forces, and the NDP's critique on the ROK government's infringement on freedoms.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

 CONFIDENTIAL

Pl. ack as usual, with cc to Mr. Narasimhan

Seoul, 9 October 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

There have been a few incidents this week along the DMZ which made the military analysts in the United Nations Command quite puzzled as to their true objective. After a comparative lull since the spring of this year, a number of incidents involving acts of infiltration and firefight took place in that area. The ROK Ministry of Defence announced on 6 October that a number of North Korean armed agents has attempted to infiltrate through the western sector of the DMZ during the daylight and that in an engagement with them three of the infiltrators were reported killed while the South Korean side sustained two casualties. It was also announced on 9 October that another engagement took place at the Han river estuary when ROK troops were engaged in a fire fight with a number of reported infiltrators. The ROK Army Command stated that during this firefight two North Koreans and one ROK soldier were killed. On the other hand, the U.N. Command announced that on two occasions fire was directed from the North Korean side of the DMZ against two U.S. helicopters and that, during the incidents related to the infiltration across the Han river estuary, the North Koreans used artillery for the first time since two years in order to cover the retreat of their soldiers. The U.N. Command side called a MAC meeting for next Tuesday to discuss these incidents.

As to the bilateral ROK-US talks regarding the modernization of the South Korean armed forces, General Shim Hung Sun, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated on 8 October in the National Assembly that these talks will be concluded at the end of this month and that the two sides have agreed on a programme to provide the ROK army with modern equipment. A U.S. Government source in Seoul disclosed that this programme will possibly entail an allocation of \$1.5 billion over a period of three years to provide the ROK air force and navy with modern arms. At the same time it was reported that the timetable for withdrawing the U.S. troops from South Korea is going on schedule and it is estimated that

/...

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

- 2 -

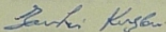
by June 1971 there will be roughly around 45,000 U.S. soldiers here. The withdrawal of the remaining troops will, it was stated, depend on the pace and progress of modernizing the ROK forces.

With regard to the domestic situation, the opposition New Democratic Party announced during the week a new political programme designed to curb the Government's interference with the freedom of the press and the activities of its security agents regarding public meetings of political organizations. The programme itself criticized strongly the Government's anti-communist law and called for some form of exchange and contact with North Korea under the supervision of an international organization.

During its meeting this week, the Committee of UNCURK recommended that the forthcoming session of the Commission be held in Japan on 5 and 6 November 1970. However, it was not decided yet whether the Commission will submit an interim report covering developments since 15 August to the Secretary-General.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary