

November 6, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Chairman Chote Klongvicha to UN
Secretary-General U Thant**

Citation:

"Letter, UNCURK Chairman Chote Klongvicha to UN Secretary-General U Thant", November 6, 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.

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Summary:

Chairman of UNCURK Chote Klongvicha updates U Thant on the remote prospect of unification, North Korean infiltrations of the DMZ, and the planned reduction of U.S. military forces.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

File
Korea

CVN/je

17 November 1970

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter of 6 November, bringing me up to date in regard to the major developments in Korea which have taken place since the submission of the last report of your Commission to the General Assembly on 13 August 1970. I note that, in so doing, the Commission is prompted by its desire to keep me abreast of developments while avoiding the submission of a report to me for circulation to the General Assembly.

I wish to inform you that I have taken careful note of the contents of your letter.

I accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. In the past, the President of the Republic of Korea, General Yoo, on 15 August regarding the peaceful unification of Korea in the most recent development in this field. The keynote in the President's address was his expression of willingness, subject to a number of preconditions, to engage in meaningful discussions for the removal of artificial barriers standing in the way of progress towards unification. While it seems that the Government of the Republic of Korea is not encouraging a public debate on unification, it is, however, expected that the unification question will be an election issue during the 1971 Presidential and National Assembly elections. In this context, the New Chairman Party (NCP) presidential candidate, Mr. Ahn Jae Jung, United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea "armed infiltration", Seoul, Korea, and why the Republic of Korea should not seek cultural and other exchanges with North Korea.

cc: Mr. Narasimhan ✓ Forward by President Park on 13 August
Mr. Muller acceptable to the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea. Mr. Kutakov's reaction of that Republic was, as might have
Mr. Lenieux

His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURB)CONFIDENTIALC.V.

A. J.

Kawana, Japan
6 November 1970

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that during its regular session held in Kawana, Japan, on 5 and 6 November 1970, the Commission requested me to address this letter to you in order to bring Your Excellency up to date with the major developments in Korea which have taken place since the submission of its last report to the General Assembly on 13 August 1970.

In so doing, the Commission is prompted by its desire to keep Your Excellency abreast of developments while averting the submission of a report to you for circulation to the General Assembly.

As Your Excellency is fully aware, the question of unification of Korea is the main mandate of the Commission. In this regard, it would perhaps appear that the statement made by the President of the Republic of Korea, Park Chung Hee, on 15 August regarding the peaceful unification of Korea is the most recent development in this field. The keynote in the President's address was his expression of willingness, subject to a number of preconditions, to engage in meaningful discussions for the removal of artificial barriers standing in the way of progress towards unification. While it seems that the Government of the Republic of Korea is not encouraging a public debate on unification, it is, however, expected that the unification question may be posed as an election issue during the 1971 Presidential and National Assembly elections. In this context, the New Democratic Party (NDP) presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, has already advanced his views and stated recently that should the North Korean regime desist from its "armed infiltration", he sees no reason why the Republic of Korea should not seek cultural and other exchanges with North Korea.

The proposals put forward by President Park on 15 August were completely unacceptable to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the reaction of that Republic was, as might have

His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

/... 1970

- 2 -

been expected, negative in character. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where there is no scope for public discussion on the question of unification, has repeated its earlier stand which was that the question of unification should be discussed only between the people of South and North Korea without the intervention of the United Nations and subject to the withdrawal of United States troops.

In the light of these positions adopted by both sides, it appears to the Commission that early prospects for unification are remote.

On the question of security, after a period of comparative lull a number of significant incidents took place beginning in mid-September. These took the form of an increasing number of attempts on the part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to infiltrate agents both through the Demilitarized Zone and in coastal areas, a sharp increase in harassing fire, particularly in the Han River estuary and two incidents involving the U.N. Command guards in the Joint Security Area. There were numbers of casualties on both sides arising from these incidents. There is no reason to believe that the incidents represent any basic change in the overall military situation, but they have had the effect of maintaining tension at a relatively high level.

As to other aspects of the situation in Korea, the planned reduction of the United States military forces here can be regarded as an important development. This reduction and the application of the "Nixon doctrine" have given cause to some anxiety and have resulted in a good deal of discussion in the Republic of Korea. However, the Government of the Republic is fully conscious of the United States commitments under the Mutual Defence Treaty. It is also generally believed that by modernizing the Republic of Korea armed forces no power vacuum in the country is expected to take place.

On the domestic political scene, campaigning for the forthcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections (which will probably take place in May and June 1971) has already been commenced by the Government and opposition parties, and it is likely that a number of substantial issues affecting the future of this country will be raised, including that of unification which we have referred to earlier. The Commission will, in accordance with its mandate

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- 3 -

and normal practice, follow these developments closely and will observe the conduct of the elections throughout the country.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Chote Klongvicha.
Chote Klongvicha
Chairman