

November 11, 1970

Letters, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on Chile's UNCURK participation, reduction of U.S. military forces, increasing number of DMZ incidents, and ROK political parties' stance on national security.

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cc. Mr. Narasimhan
 Mr. Kutakov
 Mr. Muller



NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL

18 November 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

A sharp political controversy between the main opposition
 New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Government's long-ruled
 Republican Party (RNP) arose this week over the issue of national
 Dear Mr. Kuzbari, its essence, it centered around the repeated
 statements made recently by the opposition party leaders
 can I acknowledge receipt of your three confidential letters
 dated 11 and 13 November 1970 respectively.

I send copy of this correspondence to the Under-Secretary-
 General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Robert G. Muller

Director

An equally significant development this week was the
 Mr. Z. Kuzbari made on 11 November by the U.S. military authorities
 Principal Secretary complete withdrawal of the 2nd U.S. Division
 UNCURK was being guarding a stretch of 10 miles of the Korean
 Seoul, Korea
 since the end of the War and to turn over
 the defense of the whole 195-mile boundary to the Republic of
 Korea armed forces. The decision appeared to have been based

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Mr. G.V. Narasimhan
 Chief de Cabinet
 United Nations
 New York

UNITED NATIONS



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

Seoul, 13 November 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

A sharp political controversy between the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDF) and the Government's Democratic Republican Party (DRP) arose this week over the issue of national security. In its essence, it centered around the repeated statements made recently by the opposition's presidential candidate, Kim Dae Jung, to dissolve the 2½ million Homeland reservists and to seek from the big powers, the U.S., U.S.S.R., Communist China and Japan, guarantees for the future security of the Republic of Korea. The Government party took issue with these statements and accused him of endangering the security of the country by these proposals. It pointed out that the Homeland Reserve Force must be maintained as a counter-organization against the huge militia force in North Korea. The ROK Minister of Defence, Jung Nae Hiuk, stated on 4 November 1970 that the opposition party proposals had posed a great threat to the national security of the Republic and warned its members not to use them as election issues. On the other hand, the NDF reacted to this statement by intensifying its campaign and called for the dismissal of the Defence Minister who, according to the party members, has misused the armed forces for political purposes in violation of the Constitution. This dispute between the two major political parties has cast its own shadow over the normal proceedings of the National Assembly and is expected to be the main issue when the Assembly is reconvened on 21 November.

An equally significant development this week was the announcement made on 11 November by the U.S. military authorities in Seoul for the complete withdrawal of the 2nd U.S. Division which has been guarding a stretch of 18 miles of the Korean Demilitarized Zone since the end of the War and to turn over the defence of the whole 155-mile boundary to the Republic of Korea armed forces. The decision appeared to have been based

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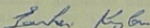
Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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on both budgetary and political reasons. There has recently been a great deal of concern that one of the frequent shooting incidents involving acts of infiltration along the DMZ might suddenly turn into a substantial clash which could cause Washington to make major decisions on the use of its troops in that sector. The South Koreans have been opposed to this move, but it was stated that the 2nd Division will nevertheless be pulled out by the middle of next summer and that only the 7th Division will stay in the rear area, thus reducing the strength of the U.S. forces in Korea under the U.N. Command to the 44,000 level.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

Mr. S. P. Harwood
1215 14th Street
United Nations
New York

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

Seoul, 11 November 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The U.N. Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea met in Kawana, Japan, on 5 and 6 November 1970. The Representative of Thailand, Ambassador Chote Klongvicha, presided over its session which was attended by all the members with the exception of the Representatives of Chile and Pakistan. The Representative of Chile, Ambassador Augusto Marambio, informed me earlier that he had not obtained any instructions from his Government to attend the session. The Commission took note of his absence and agreed to review the question of the Chilean representation at a later stage.

The members of the Commission exchanged general views and information with regard to the security and political developments in Korea since the submission of UNCURK's last report to the Secretary-General on 13 August 1970.

During the review of the security situation in the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Allan H. Loomes, Representative of Australia, pointed out the sudden increase in the number of incidents along the DMZ in the early part of October. He stated that, while there is no definite pattern as to the nature of these incidents, they did, however, represent a sudden new development from the security point of view. He added that the incidents of 9 and 12 October 1970 in the Joint Security Area of the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters in Panmunjom had disturbed the smooth functioning of the armistice machinery and expressed the hope that efforts would be made to maintain the peaceful character of the MAC in order to alleviate tension and solve local problems. On the other hand, the Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador J.Q. Bas Backer, viewed the afore mentioned Joint Security Area incidents as purely local ones with no sign of being enlarged. He emphasized that his analysis of the U.N. Command's report on the DMZ incidents during 1970 pointed rather to a decrease in their number. The Turkish Representative,

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Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
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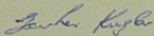
Ambassador Bulend N. Kestelli, agreed with the Netherlands Representative's assessment that those incidents could not lead to anything of greater significance. The Netherlands Representative provided the members with his own evaluation of the Korean situation as seen from Japan, where he has been accredited. He said that the basic policy of the Japanese Government is to stay out of the Korean conflict, but, at the same time, it is anxious to maintain the status quo in the Korean peninsula. He also emphasized that the main pre-occupation of the Japanese Government today is its policy towards Communist China and, in this respect, it has not given the Korean situation a priority over its other policies.

On the question of the U.S. troops withdrawal from South Korea, there was a consensus of opinion among the Commission's members that the reduction of forces is being carried out according to the time-table. The Representative of Australia drew the attention of the members to the effect of this withdrawal on the structure of the U.N. Command in the future. In this connexion, the Representative of the Netherlands stated that the U.S. troops reduction in South Korea reflects the new shift in the U.S. policy, which is to take into primary consideration its political interest first and not the interest of the Asian countries. He cited the troops withdrawal in Viet-Nam as an example of this new trend.

The members of the Commission also discussed the domestic political issues, and, in particular, the present political campaigns by the Government's Democratic Republican Party (DRP) on one hand and the main opposition New Democratic Party (NDF) on the other. The members referred to the various statements made recently by the new presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, and his references to seek guarantees from the big powers, the U.S., U.S.S.R., Communist China and Japan, with regard to the security of South Korea. They also discussed Kim Dae Jung's party plan to advocate cultural contacts with North Korea under certain conditions. They all agreed that the present political campaigns have brought into focus many interesting issues touching on the mandate of the Commission, especially the question of unification. As all these issues will highlight the 1971 Presidential and National Assembly elections, it was agreed that the Commission should watch them continuously and that during its next session in February they will be reviewed again for the purpose of laying a groundwork to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for May and June 1971.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

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(UNCURK)

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Robert -
2 letters for acct
as normal

Seoul, 11 November 1970

cc Kurbali

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

As you may have gathered from the text of the press release which I have cabled you on 7 November 1970 regarding the Commission's session, the Representative of Chile, Ambassador A. Marambio, did not attend the session. He informed me, however, that he had been in touch with his Government on this matter, but was told to refrain from participating in this session pending further instructions.

My personal belief is that, with the public statement made recently by the new Chilean President Salvador Allende to exchange diplomatic relations with North Korea, it is very unlikely that Chile will continue its representation on the Commission.

There was a general exchange of views during the Commission's session on this matter and it was agreed that the Commission defer any action pending official notification on the part of the Chilean Government to the Secretary-General on its representation on UNCURK. Following the past practice, the submission of the Commission's official documents to the Chilean Representative will be continued until UNCURK decides otherwise.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

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

cc
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