

November 27, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning Recent
Political Developments in the ROK**

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari informs Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan of parliamentary debates in South Korea for a changed foreign policy stance and consensus on election law revision.

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UNITED NATIONS



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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF
KOREA

cc: Mr. Kutakov

CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 27 November 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

7 December 1970

The political impasse, which had paralyzed the normal activities of the National Assembly because of disagreement between the Government's Democratic Republican Party and the opposition People's Party over the revision of the election laws, came to an end this week. Both parties have announced that they will accept the revision of the election laws. The political impasse has been broken and the National Assembly will convene its present session for the discussion of the budget and other outstanding issues. It is also expected that a new Cabinet will be formed early next year in order to supervise the implementation of the

I acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter of 27 November reporting on recent political developments in the ROK.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Certain interesting trends have been discerned in the present debate in the National Assembly which could indicate some shifts in the foreign and domestic policies of Korea. Members of the opposition People's Party in the National Assembly have been urging the Government to alter its rigid anti-communist stand and to adopt a more realistic approach to the changing situation in Asia. Assemblyman Song Won Yang of the New Democratic Party urged the present administration to take notice of the expected admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and to adjust its foreign policies accordingly. He also suggested that the Government should coordinate its foreign policy with the major powers, the U.S., U.S.S.R., Japan and the other major powers, in order to ensure the security of Korea. He also suggested that the Government should explore the possibility of establishing trade relations with the socialist countries in Europe. Prime Minister Chung Il Egon stated in the Assembly in this connection that his Government would study these proposals and make its decisions accordingly. On the other hand, it was reported that the Commerce and Industry Committee of the National Assembly has recommended some changes in the existing trade bill in order to permit the Government to establish trade relations with these countries.

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

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 27 November 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The political impasse, which had paralysed the normal activities of the National Assembly because of disagreement between the Government's Democratic Republican Party and the opposition New Democratic Party over the revision of the election laws, came to an end this week. Both parties have announced their agreement on a compromise plan whereby the election laws will be revised in order to shorten the campaigning periods of the presidential and parliamentary elections. With this agreement finally arrived at, it is expected that the National Assembly will devote its present session for the discussion of the new year's budget and other outstanding issues. It is also expected that a new Cabinet will be formed early next year in order to supervise the forthcoming elections.

Certain interesting trends have been discerned in the present debate in the National Assembly which could indicate some shifts in the foreign and domestic policies of the Republic of Korea. Members of the opposition New Democratic Party in the National Assembly have been urging the Government to alter its rigid anti-communist stand and to adopt a more realistic approach to the changing situation in Asia. Assemblyman Song Won Yang of the New Democratic Party urged the present administration to take notice of the expected admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and to adjust its foreign policies accordingly. He also reiterated his party's policy for obtaining guarantees from the four major powers, the U.S., U.S.S.R., Japan and the People's Republic of China, for the security of Korea. Other opposition members exhorted the Government to explore possibilities of establishing trade relations with the socialist countries of eastern Europe. Prime Minister Chung Il Kwon stated in the Assembly in this connexion that his Government would study these proposals and make its decisions accordingly. On the other hand, it was reported that the Commerce and Industry Committee of the National Assembly has recommended some changes in the existing trade bill in order to permit the Government to establish trade relations with those countries.

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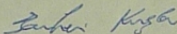
Mr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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The reaction in the local press to the outcome of the Korean debate at the United Nations has been described as rather satisfactory. It was thought earlier that, because of the voting in the General Assembly in favour of the admission of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea may lose more African and Asian votes, but it turned out to be evident, according to the local press editorials, that there is no parallel at present between the two issues. However, it is generally recognized that the recent political changes in some Latin American countries have caused the Republic of Korea to lose few more votes this year. At the same time, the press urged the Government to take notice of the impending changes in the United Nations itself and plan its policy in their light.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary