

**February 20, 1970**

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN  
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan**

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**Summary:**

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari writes Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the release of 39 South Korean passengers on the KAL plane YS-11 and President Park Chung Hee's appeal to end National Assembly boycotts.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 20 February 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The main development this week has been the release on 14 February 1970 by north Korea of 39 south Korean passengers whose plane, a Korean Air Lines YS-11, was reportedly hijacked to the north on 11 December 1969. Their release took place at a short notice through the armistice village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone. It was quite significant though that this release took place in the north Korean sector of the Joint Security Area, thus confirming the earlier DPRK's stand that the whole affair is a matter between Koreans themselves and the MAC has nothing to do with it. There are still eleven south Korean passengers including the two pilots and two stewardesses being held in north Korea. Pyongyang radio stated on 14 February that "some passengers requested to stay in the northern half of the DPRK and decided not to return to south Korea".

The circumstances which have surrounded the whole hijacking incident are still unclear, but a ROK official statement made public here on 17 February, after questioning the returned passengers, pointed out that the act of hijacking had been carried out by one man alone -- Cho Chang Hi -- a south Korean retired army non-commissioned officer who allegedly acted on order from north Korean authorities.

Earlier, the DPRK Government stated that the pilot and co-pilot of the KAL "were motivated by patriotic feelings and went over to the northern half of the DPRK". Presently, the fate of the remaining eleven passengers in north Korea is a matter of speculation in the south Korean press. It was reported that the ROK Government intends to ask the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to use its good office and secure the release of the remaining passengers.

As to other domestic issues, President Chung Hee Park appealed again to members of the opposition New Democratic Party to reconsider the boycott of the National Assembly and discuss their grievances within the Assembly itself. The parliamentary life in the ROK has been paralyzed since October 1969 when members of the opposition NDP walked out of the National Assembly in protest against the passage of the constitutional amendment bill.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Zouheir Kuzbari in dark ink.

Zouheir Kuzbari  
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan  
Chef de Cabinet  
United Nations  
New York