

March 13, 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 about the partial reshuffle in the ROK Cabinet, worsening ROK-Japan relations, and satisfaction over the postponement of U.S. force reduction in the ROK.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 13 March 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The only noteworthy development this week has been the partial reshuffle in the ROK cabinet, which was announced on 11 March 1970. In an apparent move designed to tighten his control on the Government and to effect closer relations between the ruling Democratic Republican Party and his administration, President Chung Hee Park replaced four cabinet members by two legislators from the DRP, one retired army general and a former opposition leader.

Retired army Lt-General Jung Nae Hiuk, President of the state-owned Korea Electric Company, and one of the leading officers of the 16 May military revolution, was appointed Defence Minister. Mr. Kim Yung Sun, an opposition leader who was banned from political activities and imprisoned for two years, was named Minister for National Unification Board. The other two legislators, Representatives Kil Chae Ho and Lee Byong Ok, were appointed ministers without portfolios, the first legislators to become cabinet members under the constitutional amendment approved in the National Referendum of last October. It is generally believed that these cabinet changes are the first steps towards preparing the ground for the presidential election in June 1971.

The ROK-Japan relations have been marked again this week by further difficulties. The ROK Government protested to the Japanese Government on 10 March over the latter's plan to allow visits to north Korea by members of the Chosun Soren (The pro-north Korean group of Korean residents in Japan) and to resume the repatriation of Korean nationals to north Korea. The ROK Foreign Minister, Mr. Kyu Hah Choi, warned the Japanese Ambassador in Seoul on 11 March that the travel by the Chosun Soren members and the resumption of repatriation of Korean residents to north Korea which was terminated in 1967, would adversely affect and harm relations between the two countries. However, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Kiichi Aichi, informed the ROK Ambassador in Tokyo on 12 March that his Government will not change its recently adopted policy to relax restriction on visits by the Japanese and Koreans residing in Japan to north Korea or other socialist countries. In the meantime, universities' students in Seoul stated that they may organize a boycott campaign against Japanese goods in protest of Japan's new policy of separating politics from economy.

In another development, the local press have expressed their satisfaction over the reports from Washington that the U.S. Government decided to postpone any decision regarding the reduction of its forces in the ROK. Earlier it was reported that, among their other main tasks, these forces were to also protect the reported U.S. nuclear weapons in the Republic, but the local U.S. officials have always refused to acknowledge the stationing of these weapons here.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

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