

March 9, 1970

**Letters between ROK President Park Chung Hee and
UN Secretary-General U Thant**

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Summary:

Park Chung Hee asks for U Thant and the UN's support of the ROK in releasing the remaining 11 people from the KAL YS-11 hi-jacking incident in North Korea. U Thant acknowledges that he has no influence on DPRK authorities.

Credits:

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c.c. Permanent Observer
 Mr Lemieux

Korea

CVN/jv

CVN/jv

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Mr President,

Your Permanent Observer, His Excellency Mr Yong Shik Kim, brought me personally yesterday your letter dated 9 March. I am most grateful to you for your kind references to me personally and for your personal support to the United Nations.

I have taken note of the information you have given me regarding the recent incident involving the "hijacking" of a civil commercial aircraft of the Korean Airlines. As you are no doubt aware, I have no means of influencing the authorities in North Korea in regard to the release of the seven passengers and four crew members as well as of the aircraft and cargo, which are still retained in North Korea. I was, however, glad to learn from Ambassador Kim that you are seeking the good offices of the ICRC in this connexion.

Accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

U Thant

U Thant

His Excellency Park Chung Hee
 President of the Republic of Korea
 Chong Wa Deo
 Seoul
 Korea

From the P. observer of the
Republic of Korea.

U.S.A.
23/3/70

C.V.

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OF KOREA

the full restoration
the area.

1, 9th March, 1970

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i.e., to bring about, by peaceful means, the establishment
after 55 days of detention in north Korea.

PARK CHUNG HEE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

(Translation)

Seoul, 9th March, 1970

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea, I have the honour to extend to you my warmest greetings and to reaffirm the cordial relationship that has been existing between the United Nations and the Republic of Korea.

It is most gratifying to note that, under your inspiring leadership, the United Nations has made great contributions to the world peace and security and to the betterment of human welfare throughout the world. I would also like to express to you my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the valuable efforts by the United Nations for the achievement of its objectives in Korea, i.e., to bring about, by peaceful means, the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea under a

It is revealed that, of the 12 persons remaining in north Korea, 7 passengers and 4 crew members, with the exception of the culprit, were being held against their

His Excellency U Thant

Secretary General of the United Nations
New York

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representative form of government, and the full restoration of international peace and security in the area.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to draw your special attention to the recent incident in which a civil commercial aircraft (YS-11) of the Korean Air Lines (KAL), with 47 passengers and 4 crew members on board, was hijacked to north Korea by an armed north Korean Communist agent disguised as a passenger during its regular flight service from Kangnung to Seoul.

In so doing, the north Korean Communists are behaving in total disregard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2591 (XXI) of December 12, 1969 concerning hijacking of civil aircraft in flight and the resolutions on "Reunion of the dispersed families" adopted at the International Conferences of

Red Cross in 1959, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

As you may be aware, 39 persons out of 51 passengers and crew members were returned through Panmunjom on February 14, 1970 after 65 days of detention in north Korea.

It is revealed that, of the 12 persons remaining in north Korea, 7 passengers and 4 crew members, with the exception of the culprit, were being held against their free will. According to the information made available to my government, there is no doubt that these 11 innocent and

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hapless civilians are eager to be reunited with their families in the Republic of Korea and that they are deprived of their right to return and freedom to do so.

The hijacking of a civil aircraft in flight and forcible detention against their free will of the passengers and crew members as well as the aircraft and cargo are a serious violation of the principles of international law and practices and humanitarianism.

In so doing, the north Korean Communists are behaving in total disregard of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 2551 (XXIV) of December 12, 1969 concerning hijacking of civil aircraft in flight and the resolutions on "Reunion of the dispersed families" adopted at the International Conferences of Red Cross in 1953, 1957 and in 1965.

With appreciation and gratitude once again for your valuable contributions to the peace and security of the world, I look forward to your continued concern and cooperation for an early release and return of the 11 detainees, as well as the aircraft and cargo, to the Republic of Korea.

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Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my
highest consideration.

/Sgd./ Park Chung Hee