

April 24, 1970

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

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet C.V. Narasimhan on the forthcoming UNCURK report, announcement of a new opposition party, and ROK's plan to exchange trade with some Communist countries.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 24 April 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Committee of UNCURK met on 20 April and considered the first draft of the Commission's forthcoming report to the U.N. Secretary-General, which is expected to be finalized and signed towards the end of August. The main features of the report follow very much the same pattern of previous reports with the exception that emphasis in the new report has been placed on the developing close ROK-Japan relations in order to maintain the security of the area.

The full Commission is slated to open on 11 May during which the members will be briefed by the U.N. Command on the security aspects of the present situation in the Republic of Korea, as well as by the Ministry of Unification Board on the progress being made by the Ministry on its plans for unification during the year. The members are also expected to make a field trip to the northern-eastern frontline area.

With regard to the domestic political situation, the former President of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Yun Bo Sun, announced on 17 April, 1970, the formation of a new party whose main task would be to oppose the present policies of the DRP administration. In his announcement he expressed disappointment over the failure of the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) to play a constructive role in opposing the present regime and vowed to do his best to reinstate democratic institutions in the Republic of Korea. Political Observers here doubt the success of establishing such a party because the former President himself has no backing among South Korean politicians and his inability during the last 8 years to derive support from various political opposition circles. On the other hand, the ruling Democratic Republic Party made it very clear during the week that since no agreement had been reached with the opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) to normalize the work of the National Assembly, the party will go ahead and call unilaterally for a National Assembly session in mid-May.

In another interesting development, Mr. Lee Byong Ok, Minister without Portfolio for Economic Affairs, stated on

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

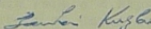
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April 22 that the Republic of Korea is planning to exchange trade with "Communist countries excluding North Korea, Communist China and North Vietnam". The Minister also added that the exchange of trade with the Communist countries will deal mostly with the export of non-strategic items largely consumer goods. The decision, if approved by the Cabinet, represents a major departure in the ROK foreign policy and a relaxation in its dealings with the Socialist States. It should be recalled in this connexion that the ROK Foreign Ministry made it clear during the third annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank that they would issue visas to representatives from the U. S. S. R. and Outer Mongolia if they wished to participate in the meeting. However, neither of these two countries took part in the said meeting.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary