

June 20, 1970

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

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Summary:

Possible U.S. troop reduction in ROK and its implications continues to be discussed.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 20 June 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

While there has practically been no further discussion on the reported capture, on 5 June, of a ROK broadcasting vessel by the North Koreans, the question of the possible reduction of U.S. troops in the ROK continues to be a matter of great concern in the Republic.

President Park Chung Hee, in his reply, earlier this month, to a questionnaire by the opposition New Democratic Party, reaffirmed his opposition to the reduction of U.S. troops in the ROK under the present circumstances. Recently the ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Choi Kyu Hah, referred to this question at the fifth annual conference of the Foreign Ministers of ASPAC countries which opened in Wellington on 17 June. The Minister, in his opening address to the conference, said "... my Government considers that too hasty a reduction on the part of the United States of its presence in our area will create a critical situation in here by leading the north Koreans, Chinese Communists and Vietnamese Communists to miscalculate the true intentions of the free nations".

In a recent press conference, the spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry reiterated that the defence situation in the ROK was very essential to the security of Japan. However, the spokesman declined to comment on whether Japan might try to fill any vacuum created by a U.S. troops withdrawal, possibly by helping strengthen Korea defence industry.

Furthermore, despite the differences between the Government and the opposition party which seriously hampered the work of the just concluded 73rd extraordinary session of the National Assembly, both parties have now agreed to call very soon another extraordinary session of the National Assembly to discuss the question. The floor leaders of the two major parties have not yet agreed on the agenda for the session, but it seems that between now and the end of the month the 74th extraordinary session of the National Assembly will be opened and the most important item on its agenda will be the reduction of U.S. forces.

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

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The peace manifesto issued on behalf of DPRK Premier Kim Il Sung on 3 June 1970 contained, in addition to the proposals made in the past, a reference to "leaving the existing different social systems of the North and South as they are today ... during a confederation of North and South as an interim step prior to complete unification". The ROK Foreign Minister, commenting on the manifesto, observed: "If the North Korean Communists wish to achieve unification by peaceful means, they must allow entry into North Korea of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Renatilitation of Korea (UNCURK) and observe the resolutions of the United Nations". The ROK Permanent Observer to the United Nations has also made similar remarks on the manifesto.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

M. I. Osman

M. I. Osman
Officer-in-Charge