

January 29, 1971

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

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Summary:

The DPRK urged the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee to secure the immediate release of North Korean pilot, who crash landed with MIG-15 on 3 December 1970. Their appeal is due to the failure of UN Command-DPRK talks on the matter. Additionally, the hijacking of KAL plane F-27 on 23 January 1971 by a South Korean youth has been attributed to "North Koreans' underground activities."

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 29 January 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea side on the Military Armistice Commission has urged the Swedish and the Swiss members on the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to intervene and secure the immediate release of the North Korean pilot, Major Pak, who crash-landed with his MIG-15 on the East Coast on 3 December 1970, and who is being held by the Republic of Korea authorities. The demand appears to be the result of fruitless private meetings between the United Nations Command and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sides, during which the United Nations Command proposed an exchange of some of the Korean Air Lines passengers presently being held in North Korea with Major Pak. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea side has apparently rejected this proposal on the ground that there is no parallel between the two incidents: the hijacking of a Korean Air Lines YS-11 plane to North Korea on 11 December 1969 and the crash-landing of the MIG-15 on the East Coast, South Korea, on 3 December 1970. They reasoned that, in the first case, the Military Armistice Commission has no authority or competence to deal with the matter because of its political nature and the fact that some of the Korean Air Lines passengers decided to remain in North Korea, but it was the duty of the Military Armistice Commission, according to the provisions of the Armistice Agreement, to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Major Pak and to return him to the North. On the other hand, the United Nations Command side maintained the view that the principle of "free choice" should be established in this case and, if so, the North Korean pilot should state before representatives of an international body whether he wishes to return back to North Korea or to stay in the South.

As to the incident of an attempted hijacking on 23 January 1971 during which a South Korean youth tried to force an F-27

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

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Korean Air Lines plane with its passengers to fly to North Korea, but blew himself up with a handgrenade when it crash-landed on the East Coast, police investigations have not been made public yet and it appears that the incident was possibly of a local nature than in connexion with what the local press has referred to as "North Koreans' underground activities".

There was little of significance to report this week on the domestic political situation except the tension arising from an explosion incident involving the residence of Kim Dae Jung, the opposition New Democratic Party presidential candidate. The explosive thrown into his yard while he was away on a trip to the States did no damage to his house, but led to a heated campaign between the two major political parties. The opposition New Democratic Party requested a special session of the National Assembly to discuss all kinds of Government's harassments against the opposition, but the majority Democratic Republican Party refused to go along with the demand and, instead, suggested that this incident be taken up in the Home Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary