

**February 12, 1971**  
**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN  
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117457>

**Summary:**

Upon concluding the discussions on the reduction of US troops, Park Chung Hee announces that, with the exception of Panmunjom, ROK forces will be responsible for the DMZ.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 12 February 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

An important development to be noted this week is President Park Chung Hee's statement of 9 February 1971 that, as a result of the completion of negotiations between the United States and the Republic of Korea Governments to modernize the South Korean armed forces, it has become possible now for the Republic of Korea troops to assume responsibility of guarding the entire 155-mile long Demilitarized Zone. The statement apparently was made after the Government of the Republic of Korea had concluded that the United States' decision to reduce the number of its troops in Korea is a reversible one and that its objection to this decision has been fruitless. It is a common knowledge here that the Government of the Republic of Korea did its best to prevent such a development and has always favoured the continued stationing of the United States troops at certain sectors of the Demilitarized Zone in order to automatically invoke the US-ROK defence treaty in case of an armed clash with North Korea.

No details have been given yet to the redeployment of the Republic of Korea troops along the Demilitarized Zone, but a spokesman of the United Nations Command stated on 9 February that all United States forces along the Demilitarized Zone will be relieved at the end of June 1971. The spokesman also said that the relief would be accomplished over a period of time on a unit-by-unit basis to prevent a temporary weakening of the defence line in that area. The new redeployment plan calls for the South Korean forces to take charge of guarding the whole DMZ line with the exception of a narrow perimeter surrounding the Military Armistice Commission Headquarters at Panmunjom, which would continue to be controlled by the United Nations Command.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Zouheir Kuzbari in dark ink.

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