

March 12, 1971

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

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Summary:

In connection with the general election, the questions of President Park' Chung Hees electability, unification, and campaign finances are discussed.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 12 March 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

As I have informed you in my letter dated 26 February 1971 regarding the decision of the Committee of UNCURK to meet with representatives of the major political parties in order to ascertain their views on the forthcoming general elections, the Committee met on 11 March with the Secretary-General of the ruling Democratic Republican Party, Mr. Kil Chae Ho, and the party spokesman, Mr. Kim Chang Keun. Mr. Kil Chae Ho read a statement before the members, in which he singled out the achievements of the party since it has assumed power and he assured the Committee that his party will do its best to ensure that its participation in the forthcoming presidential election reflects its basic democratic attitude.

Asked by the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Loomes of Australia, to define the crucial issues to be raised during the course of the presidential election, Mr. Kil Chae Ho stated that the major issue will undoubtedly center around the person of the incumbent President, Park Chung Hee, and whether his re-election for a third term would be in the interest of the country. But it was Mr. Kil's view that the National Referendum of 1969 to permit the President to run for a third term is a definite proof that a great number of South Koreans would like to see him serving the country for another term. As to whether the question of unification is expected to be also an important issue during the election, Mr. Kil said that the positions of the Democratic Republican Party as well as the Government of the Republic of Korea had been made quite clear in President Park's statement of 15 August 1970, in which a proposal was made to North Korea to compete peacefully with the South, and to accept the jurisdiction and competence

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

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of the United Nations to achieve unification. Mr. Kil also stated that he was aware that the opposition New Democratic Party has been advocating several ideas regarding exchanges with North Korea, but the New Democratic Party has nevertheless been unable to come out with a concrete plan to meet the national interest regarding this question.

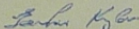
Ambassador Kestelli, Representative of Turkey, enquired from the Secretary-General of the Democratic Republican Party about guarantees to conduct the election in an honest manner at the lower level of the party system and he recalled the irregularities committed during the National Assembly elections in 1967, in which a number of the ruling party members were involved. Mr. Kil mentioned in this regard that his party had carefully studied the mistakes committed during the past and he has ensured that no irregularities whatsoever would be repeated during the forthcoming elections.

On the questions of the political party funds and the financing of the election campaigns, Mr. Kil Chae Ho appeared to be a bit ambiguous and stated that it is very difficult to control political funds during the election campaign period. He also hinted that, when the party convention to nominate a presidential candidate is held on 17 March, he expects President Park Chung Hee, the party presidential candidate, to announce publicly that he would not run again for a fourth term. Recently, the opposition New Democratic Party has accused the Democratic Republican Party of making preparations to perpetuate the administration of President Park Chung Hee for life.

The Committee will meet with the representatives of the opposition New Democratic Party next week and it has been advised that the Secretary-General and the party presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, will be present.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kusbari
Principal Secretary