

March 19, 1971

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

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Summary:

UNCURK members meet with Kim Dae Jung, who states his key issues for the election: ROK democracy, corruption within intelligence collection, suppression of opposition parties by the ruling party, and unification. UNCURK member observe that Kim's party is weak because of party factionalism. Additionally, President Park Chung Hee announces his run for third term and emphasizes economic and political stability.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 19 March 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Committee of UNCURK resumed this week its meetings with the representatives of major political parties in the Republic of Korea in order to familiarise itself with the views of those parties regarding the forthcoming elections.

The presidential candidate of the opposition New Democratic Party, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, and the director of the election counter-measures headquarters of the party, Mr. Chyung Yil Hyung, met the Committee on 18 March for that purpose. Mr. Kim Dae Jung, regarded here as the "young Kennedy of Korea", briefed the Committee members on the main political and economic issues for which he and his party stand. He appeared to be quite concerned about the future of the democratic institutions in the country and accused the ruling Democratic Republican Party and its leader, President Park Chung Hee, of betraying the principles of the 1961 revolution. He stated that, if a genuine democratic regime could be developed in Korea, there should be no fear, in his opinion, of communism, and that only a government responsive to the need of the people could create a sense of confidence in the Korean people themselves to overcome the complex of fearing the "Communist threat" from the North.

In outlining his policies before the Committee, he seemed to reject the idea of amending the Constitution to have any president to run for a third consecutive term and restated his previous position to abolish the present Homeland Reserve Force system which was created a few years ago by the present administration of President Park as a national militia, and he also called for curbing the

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

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activities of the Republic of Korea Central Intelligence Agency and the transfer of its investigation authorities to the Ministry of Justice.

As to the economic achievements of the present administration which the Democratic Republican Party has presented to the people as its main platform, Kim Dae Jung expressed his doubt on its real strength and accused the Government of embarking on prestige economic projects which are merely showpieces and do not improve the lives of the majority of the people.

Asked by the Committee whether his party is being given the same opportunity to express publicly its views with regard to major issues pertaining to the forthcoming elections, Mr. Kim Dae Jung stated that the Government has fully controlled the press and no coverage whatsoever has been permitted on his activities or on his speeches.

With regard to foreign issues, he again reiterated his views that the best way to bring about unification of both North and South Korea is to create the necessary conducive conditions for it by firstly proposing to the North to renounce war as a means of political settlement and by proposing to the US, USSR, Japan and Communist China to guarantee the security of the Korean peninsula. Asked by the Representative of Australia, Ambassador Loomes, as to what he proposed to do to make initial contact with North Korea regarding the question of unification, he stated that once both North and South Korea commit themselves to renounce war and the use of force to achieve unification, it would be possible to suggest to the North an exchange of journalists, mail and athletes through non-governmental organizations.

With regard to the question of admitting the two Koreas to the United Nations as part of an international package deal to have the divided nations becoming members of the United Nations, Mr. Kim Dae Jung drew the attention

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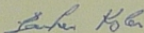
of the Committee to the fact that the Republic of Korea has been created by the decision of the General Assembly as representing the whole Korean peninsula and, therefore, its problem differs from those of other nations like Germany, Viet-Nam and China.

The impression generally gained by the members of the Committee following their discussion with the main opposition presidential candidate is that, inasmuch as his ideas appeal to the majority of the intellectual class and the students in South Korea, the existing political machinery of his party is still ridden with dissensions and factionalism which would not ensure him of being elected during the forthcoming presidential election. Although he has brought new ideas into the domestic scene and forced the Government to change part of its inflexibility on various issues, he stands nevertheless as a lonely figure surrounded by the ambitious and professional political cadre.

In another development related to the forthcoming presidential election, the ruling Democratic Republican Party held its national convention on 17 March and nominated the incumbent President as its candidate. In the acceptance speech, President Park again presented the issue of his re-election as the choice either for the present political stability and the economic growth of the country or a complete chaos. It is significant in this regard to note that the President has appointed on the following day Mr. Kim Jong Pil, the former Chairman of the Democratic Republican Party and one of his former closest associates, as the vice-president of the party. Mr. Kim Jong Pil and President Park parted their way in 1968, but they seem now to join hands again in order to offset the rising image among the people of the opposition presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung. Many observers here viewed the appointment of Kim Jong Pil as preparing him to take over the presidency from Mr. Park Chung Hee in 1975.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary