

April 9, 1971

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

Citation:

"Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan", April 9, 1971, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0004-02, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117476>

Summary:

Student demonstrations are occurring in South Korea in reaction to the state's intervention and control of student activity. In light of the 1961 student protests, the government is not using repressive measures to suppress the demonstrations.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

②

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

Seoul, 9 April 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

There have been signs this week that a wave of students' unrest has swept over many leading universities in Seoul. On the surface, it appears that the students, under the pretext of opposing the Government's military training programme for colleges and universities initiated in March 1970 to replace the reserve officers training corps, have stepped up their anti-government campaigns against its intervention and control of the students' activities, committees and bodies in various universities. Violent clashes between students and police flared up at the Seoul National University and the Yonsei University during this week and a number of injuries were reported on both sides, but all these demonstrations have so far been confined to campuses and the students were not permitted to demonstrate in the streets.

There is no evidence yet that the students' demonstrations are being carried out on a nationwide scale, or whether they have the support of the majority of the people. What seems to be certain is the fact that the main bulk of the students resent the Government's penetration, especially its Central Intelligence Agency, into their organizations whereby it could keep a watchful eye on their movements. Another example of their dissatisfaction against this control of the Government is their protest of what they call "the suppression of the freedom of the press". Two weeks ago, a number of them demonstrated in front of the office of the Dong-A Ilbo, the Korean language daily newspaper, and accused its editor of not reporting the full facts of the political situation in the Republic of Korea. What seems to give this movement a particular significance is that the same slogan raised by the students against the introduction of military training programme for colleges and universities has repeatedly been used by the main opposition New Democratic

.../...

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

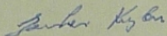
- 2 -

Party presidential candidate, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, who has been calling over the last two months for the abolition of this programme.

The outcome of these demonstrations, which so far have been confined to university campuses, may depend on the way with which the Government will handle them. After having learnt full lessons from the students' uprising of 1961, the government officials appear to be quite cautious and careful not to adopt severe repressive measures.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary