

**April 30, 1971**

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

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**Summary:**

UNCURK observed that the Korean people elected President Park Chung Hee. They believe Kim Dae Jung, who did favorably, may have suffered defeat because of his fragmented party.

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

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CONFIDENTIAL

30 April 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The outcome of the presidential election held throughout the ROK on April 27 indicates clearly that the majority of the South Koreans preferred the continuation of the policies advocated by Pres. Park Chung Hee in terms of internal stability and economic growth. However, the fact that his rival, Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the opposition NDP candidate, has shown remarkable strength mostly in the major cities also points out that there is a wind of change taking place in this country.

The partial results of the election announced by the Central Election Management Committee showed that out of 15,552,236 eligible voters, 12,387,487 cast their votes (a voting rate of approximately 80%). Pres. Park Chung Hee, the candidate of the ruling party DRP, received approximately 6,342,828 votes while his opponent, the opposition party candidate, received 5,395,900 votes.

The election campaign was observed by UNCURK teams and no incidents or disturbances were reported to have taken place. The main issues on which the two presidential candidates have fought the election varied from national security to questions related to corruption and the principle of a third consecutive term for any incumbent president. The ruling DRP has succeeded in securing the majority votes because of its better-organized party machinery, greater financial resources and the support of the government machinery. In addition, Pres. Park, at the last moment, foiled his rival's strategy, which aimed at accusing him of establishing the "generalissimo system" of government in the country, by announcing a day before the election that he will not run for a fourth term. On the other hand, the opposition candidate who until recently had been an unknown politician did remarkably well by capturing the votes of the capital city of Seoul whose voters have a better degree of political sophistication and maturity, thus expressing the desire of the urban class for a change. Considering also the

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan  
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fact that his party was not as united behind him, as the DRP was behind Pres. Park, we must give him the credit for fighting the campaign on his own.

The views generally expressed with regard to the results of the presidential election indicate that while the opposition candidate advanced in his election campaign many issues receptive to the majority of Koreans such as a better distribution of wealth, social justice, peaceful exchanges between North and South Korea, rooting out of corruption, yet he appeared to the South Koreans "untested" yet. The votes that went to Pres. Park Chung Hee mean in effect that while the South Koreans are not generally in favour of extending a third term to him, yet they were willing to give him an additional chance to continue his policies for rapid economic development and maintain the national security. The advantages that could be accrued from this election to the future of the country could be well described as forcing his administration to proceed from a position of confidence and appear more flexible and accommodating in its domestic and foreign policies. Pres. Park Chung Hee had attempted last August to open a dialogue with North Korea for peaceful exchanges and it is hoped that the new mandate given to him would give him an additional element of confidence to go further on this road.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Zouheir Kuzbari*

ZOUHEIR KUZBARI  
Principal Secretary