

May 7, 1971

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

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Summary:

National Assembly elections will be held in South Korea on 25 May 1971. While the DRP's National Assembly campaign remains similar to its presidential campaign, the NDP pledges to lift curfew bans, corruption, and give priority to housing shortages for low income people.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 7 May 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

With the presidential election over now, political activities this week have revolved around the National Assembly elections to be held on 25 May 1971. The two major Democratic Republican and New Democratic Parties, along with other splinter parties, will be competing for the membership of the 204 seats in the National Assembly. As you may recall, it was decided last year to increase the membership in the National Assembly from 175 to 204. The parties' pledges announced this week follow the same patterns of the promises made by the presidential candidates during their recent campaigns. However, the ruling Democratic Republican Party came out with additional pledges such as the lifting up of the existing midnight curfew throughout the country and the speeding up of the implementation of its anti-corruption campaign. On its part, the opposition New Democratic Party has given the housing shortage problem in Korea for the low income people its top priority during the coming campaign.

As to the distribution of seats in the next National Assembly, it has become evident that the ruling Democratic Republican Party, through the introduction of the proportional representation system, hopes to include candidates known for their past loyalties to President Park Chung Hee. It is important for the incumbent President to have a solid majority behind him if he is to implement his policies and pledges made during his recent campaign. At the same time, a threat by the opposition New Democratic Party to boycott the next National Assembly elections in protest against what it has described as "alleged irregularities" during the presidential election does not now appear quite serious.

The Committee of UNCURKI met this afternoon under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Philippines, Ambassador B.T. Tirona, and decided to form nine teams to observe those elections.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

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

UNITED NATIONS
Press Section
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release KOR/655
6 May 1971

UNCURK REPORTS ON OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Following is the text of a press release issued on 30 April in Seoul by the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK):

The United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) has observed the presidential election on 27 April 1971 in the Republic in accordance with its mandate from the General Assembly of the United Nations and in response to an invitation by the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The 10 observation teams formed by the Commission to observe the presidential election were able to travel around the country and were able to interview senior officials, election management committees, and representatives of the political parties, and were given unrestricted access to voting stations and vote-counting stations throughout the country in order that they might objectively observe the conduct of the election.

While charges of irregularities, alleged to have been committed both before and during the election, have been brought to its attention, the Commission was not in a position to verify the validity of these allegations. However, the Commission considers, on the basis and to the extent of its observation, that the election was conducted in an orderly manner and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws and regulations. The Commission was impressed by the fact that the election proceeded in a calm atmosphere and almost entirely without violence or disturbance.

The Commission wishes to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Central Election Management Committee, and its local committees throughout the Republic, for the co-operation and courtesies extended to the teams in the performance of their duties during their observation of the election.

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