

May 21, 1971

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

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Summary:

ROK claims of North Korean sea infiltration are challenged by UN Command and UNCURK. Additionally, student protests are growing, but DRP's reaction is cautious because they fear that the students may align with NDP and pose a threat to the DRP.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 21 May 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The U.N. Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea held its third session of the year in Seoul today under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Philippines, Ambassador B.T. Tirona, who has recovered from his recent illness. Because of the inability of the Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador J.Q. Bas Backer, who resides in Tokyo, to participate in the present session, it was previously agreed that the Philippines Delegation would chair this session while the Netherlands Delegation will assume the chairmanship for the next session to be held in Hakone, Japan, on 14 June 1971.

During the discussion of the security situation in the Republic of Korea, members of the Commission noted that the Government of the Republic of Korea has recently been putting out information regarding sea infiltrations by the North Koreans which lacks concrete evidence. As an example of these incidents, a naval clash was reported on 14 May 1971 on the East Coast area in which the Republic of Korea Government claimed that its navy and air force had sunk a North Korean agents' boat along with its 15 crew members. On verifying this incident, the Representative of Australia, Ambassador A.H. Loomes, stated that the United Nations Command is not in a position to support the claim of the Republic of Korea Government. Consequently, the members agreed that, should these incidents be included in its annual report, the Commission must first be convinced of their authenticity. At the same time, they agreed to seek further official information on these incidents from the Government.

The Commission also discussed the present National Assembly election campaign which is in full swing and the repeated charges by the opposition New Democratic Party regarding irregularities committed by the present administration to support the candidates of the Government's Democratic Republican Party. The members agreed that they should investigate these charges during the visits of the observation teams which are to commence tomorrow. On the other hand, the Commission's members also referred to the recent

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

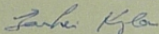
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students' demonstrations and the measures taken by the national police to put them down. The Representative of Turkey, Ambassador B.N. Kestelli, pointed out that these demonstrations could become serious if the Government fails to understand the demands of the students and to handle the situation with care. It has recently become evident that the students, who obviously did not succeed to influence very much the presidential election of 27 April, have appeared to be more frustrated, and appealed to the opposition New Democratic Party to boycott the next week's National Assembly elections. A number of the Seoul National University students visited the opposition party's headquarters two days ago for this purpose and the Seoul's District Prosecutor Office ordered their arrest, which resulted in demonstrations by other students from various universities in protest against this arrest. However, the Government made it very clear that, while it can tolerate acts of protest and demonstrations on the campuses, it will not accept any violation of the Law on Assembly and Demonstration during the parliamentary elections. So far, the students' demonstrations have been confined to the campuses, but it is feared that, should the Government take harsher measures against them, a new situation might be created in which the opposition New Democratic Party will align itself with the students' activities.

The Commission's teams to observe the National Assembly elections will proceed tomorrow to their respective areas and the members will reassemble in Seoul on 27 May to exchange views on the conduct of those elections and their outcome.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary