

May 28, 1971

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

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Summary:

The UN Command and MAC meetings over the return of North Korean pilot Major Pak are heated. The ROK government will not return Pak to North Korea, claiming that he desires to stay in South Korea. UNCURK will no longer play a role in the return or remain of Pak.

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

Seoul, 28 May 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

A private meeting was held on 26 May 1971 at Panmunjom between the North Korean senior member on the Military Armistice Commission, Major-General Han Yong Ok, and the U.N. Command's senior member, Major-General Felix M. Rogers, to discuss the future of Major Pak Song Guk, the North Korean pilot who crash-landed in his MIG-15 on a seaside beach near Kansong, Kangwon Do, on 3 December 1970.

During the meeting, General Rogers informed his counterpart that, since the North Korean side did not accept the proposal of the United Nations Command for the freedom of choice for Major Pak, it has decided to disassociate itself completely from this case and that North Korea will have to communicate directly with the South regarding his return. At the same time, General Rogers informed General Han that he had been informed by the Republic of Korea Government that Major Pak had decided to stay in South Korea and not to return to the North. At that point, General Han made an angry statement, in which he accused the United Nations Command of conspiracy with South Korea to keep the North Korean pilot in the Republic of Korea. General Han also stated that this action was clearly a violation of the Armistice Agreement and that the United Nations Command side would have to bear the consequences.

In the meantime, I have been informed that the Government of the Republic of Korea decided to surface Major Pak on 31 May, and that a press conference will be held in which he is expected to state that he has decided to stay in South Korea.

There is no doubt that this action by the Government of the Republic of Korea has definitely displeased the United Nations Command which was trying to hand the pilot over to North Korea, but was met with refusal from the part of South Korea which insisted that Major Pak's return should take place in exchange for the remaining eleven Korean Air Lines' passengers who are still being held by North Korea.

Following the decision taken by the Government of the Republic of Korea, UNCURK, which had been approached to intervene in the case, considered that the matter is closed and the Commission will have no role to play in it any more.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Zouheir Kuzbari*Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations, New York