

**May 28, 1971**

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

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**Summary:**

South Korea National Assembly election results show that over one-third of votes went to NDP and voters are going to younger, advocate-style politicians.

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UN NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 28 May 1971

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The results of the National Assembly elections held in the Republic of Korea on 25 May 1971 show clearly that the country is approaching the point where a well-balanced political line-up in the National Assembly has been made since the introduction of the parliamentary system into the Republic in 1948. The final results of the elections showed that, out of the 204-member National Assembly, the ruling Democratic Republican Party won 118 seats, the major opposition New Democratic Party 89, and the splinter parties 2. The significance of the results of the elections lies in the fact that the opposition New Democratic Party, despite its leadership crisis, has been able to muster more than 1/3 of the votes in the rural areas which, in the past, had been the strongholds of the ruling Democratic Republican Party. In addition, the elections of many new and unknown faces in both parties indicate that the voters have not been considerably influenced by the old professional politicians, but they have instead voted for young aspirants advocating reforms and new ideas. It also appears that, as a result of these elections, the Democratic Republican Party will be compelled to establish a smooth working relations with the opposition party in order to facilitate the passage of many bills in the Assembly. Although the Democratic Republican Party still holds a majority in the new National Assembly, it is widely believed that the strength shown by the opposition in those elections will force the ruling party to pay more attention to the rising criticisms of its policies in the country. Moreover, the fact that the New Democratic Party has gained more than 1/3 of the total seats makes it clear that any attempt on the part of the incumbent President to run for a fourth term will be doomed to fail.

After observing the National Assembly elections, the Commission resumed its meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Philippines, Ambassador Tirona, and discussed the outcome of those elections. The leader of each observation team gave an oral

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

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report on his findings, and the Commission issued a press statement, the text of which was despatched to you in my cable No. UNKOR-55. The Commission is expected to reconvene on 14 June in Hakone, Japan, to prepare its forthcoming report to the U.N. General Assembly.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Zouheir Kuzbari*

Zouheir Kuzbari  
Principal Secretary