June 11, 1971

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

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Summary:

The Park Chung Hee administration tries to normalize the student demonstration situation, which has led to the closing of many institutions, and to accept the admittance of communist China to the UN.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Seoul, 11 June 1971

The newly formed Government of the Republic of Korea, headed by Prime Ninister Kim Jong Pil, has embarked this week on a series of measures designed to tackle the immediate problems facing the country, the foremost of which is the normalization of the situation on the campuses where students' demonstrations have led to the closing of a number of leading universities and colleges. The students' demonstrations which started three months ago as a protest against compulsory military training have recently taken political overtones and the opposition New Democratic Farty threw its support behind the students' elements. It appears now as if the Government has the situation well in hand and may release soon the students' leaders who were arrested because of their anti-government activities.

In the meantime, Fresident Fark Chung Hee, in his capacity as the Chairman of the ruling Democratic Republican Farty, has reorganized its leadership this week in preparation for the unicameral National Assembly to be sworn in on 1 July 1971. By appointing Representative Chon Sik Kil to the powerful position of the Secretary-General of the party, he assured the new Prime Minister of the support of the party to his Government. Mr. Chon Sik Kil, a retired army colonel, was a military classmate of Premier Kim Jong Fil, and it is hoped that, with the full backing of the party, the Prime Minister may obtain a substantial support in the National Assembly.

The new Government has also undertaken a number of studies with regard to the implications of the expected admission of Communist China to the United Nations and its impact on the Korean question. At a joint conference held yesterday by the Government and the Democratic Republican Farty and presided over by President Fark Chung Hee, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nr. Kim Yong Shik, gave a briefing on the changing situation of Asia and what the Republic of Korea should do to meet it. The Republic of Korea, one of the "perimeter nations" around Communist China, will undoubtedly be affected if the principle of universality in the United Nations is to be applied, and, although the Republic of Korea officials tend to strike a difference between the admission of China to the United Nations and the Korean question, it is felt that such a development will undoubtedly create a new situation in the Korean peninsula.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. La Kugh

Zouheir Kuzbari Principal Secretary

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