

December 1, 1971

Letters between Narasimhan and Ozbudun

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Summary:

Ozbudun updates Narasimhan on the proposal of an agenda for full Red Cross negotiations, the ROK government's willingness to establish diplomatic relations with non-aligned countries that have relations with North Korea, and UNCURK's invitation to meet with the NNCS.

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF KOREA
SECRETARIAT

23 November 1971

A MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT AT PANMUNJOM

Dear Mr. Zaretskian,

Yesterday, I witnessed a bit of history-making at Panmunjom.

1 December 1971

When I earlier requested to pay a visit to General Van Noy, the Sector Member of the United Nations Supervisory Commission (UNSC) in Korea, he kindly invited us for lunch. I was most pleased to meet at the luncheon General Van Noy's counterparts from South Korea and Poland, Generals Fox and Kuzmin, respectively. Also present at the luncheon were Mrs. Confidential No. 6 and Versteeg, the Alternate Representative of the Netherlands at UNCURK, and his wife, and aides to the three Generals.

Dear Ahmet, significantly, this marks the very first occasion in my recollection when the UNSC attention I have received your confidential letters Nos. 15, 16 and 17 of 23 and 26 November. I have taken note of their contents.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul
Korea

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
Seoul

UNITED NATIONS



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4

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL: No. 45

23 November 1971

A MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT AT PANMUNJOM

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Yesterday, I witnessed a bit of history-making at Panmunjom.

When I earlier requested to pay a courtesy call on Major General Van Muyden, the Senior Member of Switzerland at the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) in Korea, he kindly invited me for lunch. I was most pleased to meet at the luncheon General Van Muyden's counterparts from Czechoslovakia and Poland, Generals Pav and Kuriata, respectively. Also present at the luncheon were Mrs. Van Muyden, Mr. Iwan Verkade, the Alternate Representative of the Netherlands at UNCURK, and his wife, and aides to the three Generals.

Most significantly, this marks the very first occasion in my recollection when the Czech and Polish Members of the NNSC attended a function knowing in advance the presence of the Principal Secretary of UNCURK as guest of honour of sorts. It marks evidently the second occasion when they met a Representative of UNCURK, having earlier talked to Ambassador Loomes of Australia.

What is even more significant is that the occasion led to a post-luncheon tour of the whole group at the Panmunjom conference site where the three Generals conjointly escorted the Swiss Senior Member's guests in a most cordial fashion. We all went up the "Freedom Pagoda" and had pictures taken to the pleasure of all concerned.

Unless you have any objection, and given the willingness of the Members of the NNSC, I propose to cultivate amicable relations with all four of them as of the return to the ROK of Major General Holmstedt of Sweden. I believe that such relations, besides being utterly harmless, could prove to be most fruitful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ahmet H. Ozbudun', is written over the typed name.

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal SecretaryMr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL : No. 16

26 November 1971

Foreign Minister's Remarks on ROK Foreign Policy

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

On 19 November, speaking before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, Foreign Minister Kim Yong Shik stated that the Government would take initiatives to seek the establishment of diplomatic relations with non-aligned countries which maintain diplomatic relations with north Korea, as well as with some non-hostile communist countries, in an effort to "block" north Korea's advance into the neutral bloc and to liberalize the "closed society of north Korea", so as to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula.

In reply to a question by DRP Assemblyman Chung Il Kwon as to the definition of "hostile countries", the Foreign Minister said that he would not necessarily brand as "hostile" all the countries which give assistance to the north Korean regime. However, hostile countries could be clearly defined, he said, as those which definitively helped north Korea in its military provocation against the ROK.

He also testified that the Government would lead the communists in the north to accept the ROK's unification formula when the current "humanitarian contacts" at Panmunjom between the ROK and the DPRK Red Cross Societies graduated into a political phase.

The establishment of the aforesaid diplomatic relations of course is a bilateral endeavour. It remains to be seen who the partners would be, if any, in this connexion.

In any case, however, the new foreign policy is a most vital departure from the ROK "Halstein Doctrine" to which Seoul had earlier clung so intensely.

The impact on the ROK of the PRC's entry into the UN is continuing most vigorously. The foregoing is yet another example.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ahmet H. Ozbudun".
Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL: No. 7

26 November 1971

THE 10TH PRELIMINARY RED CROSS MEETING

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Korean National Red Cross proposed on 24 November that the current south-north Red Cross talks adopt as an agenda item for the full-dress talks the matter of "reciprocal visits of family members and the verification of whereabouts and safety of dispersed families".

The proposal was made in the form of a five-point presentation at the 10th preliminary talks at Panmunjom.

- (1) The exchange of information as to whether family members which fall under the objects of the proposed campaign are alive or dead and also information as to their whereabouts;
- (2) The exchange of letters between the family members;
- (3) The meeting of the family members;
- (4) Reciprocal visits by the family members; and,
- (5) The reunion of the family members.

Although both sides reportedly "recognized" that the above five items of business should be involved in the family-search campaign, they failed to agree on their designation as agenda items for the full-dress talks.

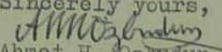
The matter of determining the scope of those to be involved in the search campaign was not resolved. However, both sides agreed that they had discussed the problem fully and they had understood each other's positions.

The ROK Red Cross said that a part of relatives might be included in the family-search campaign by "broadening, with flexibility, the definition of family members. However, the DPRK Red Cross persisted that relatives and friends should be included in the search programme and that their free travel be ensured.

The meeting lasted just over two hours. The ROK side earlier had refused a luncheon invitation by the DPRK side.

With kindest regards,

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

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary