

September 17, 1973

**Letter, Ahmet H. Ozbudun to Ismat Kittani,
"Impasse Suffered by UNCURK's Local Staff"**

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Summary:

Ozbudun sends Kittani a letter on impasse suffered by UNCURK's local staff.

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
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17 September 1973

IMPASSE SUFFERED BY UNCURK'S LOCAL STAFF

Dear Mr. Kittani,

.....

I am most hopeful and grateful that Mr. Narasimhan turned over to you my fervent appeal of 7 September 1973, concerning the "DILEMMA OF UNCURK'S LOCAL STAFF" (copy attached for immediate reference) since the two letters should be read in conjunction with each other).

The dilemma would indeed become an "impasse" without your full-fledged efforts to alleviate it.

This, I hope, could be done by some special emergency funding (over and above the Benevolent Fund?) as may be made available to assist our twenty-eight staff members, with an average of 4-5 mouths to feed, between their loss of livelihood as a result of the expected dissolution of UNCURK and their hoped-for further employment thereafter (if any).

I should like personally to do my utmost in my humble capacity (i) to find earliest employment; and (ii) wholeheartedly appeal to you, indeed to go out of your way, in endeavours to meet my requests, as listed in my aforesaid letter of 7 September.

The initial reaction to the same request I had made to Mr. George Lansky is regretfully not encouraging, at this time. However, I am counting very much on further talks between yourself and Field Service, etc. I sincerely hope and urge that some financial remedy would be somehow found (Point 4 in my letter).

Please forgive me if I pursue this topic perhaps with "excessive" stress in the immediate future since indeed the plight of the staff would be hopeless without your generous endeavours.

Meanwhile, I propose to campaign hard (but appropriately) to secure the local staff some means of livelihood. I am, for instance, in touch with the Resident Representative of the UNDP in Korea to hire as many UNCURK staff members as possible for his expanding outfit.

Mr. Ismat Kittani
Executive Assistant
to the Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

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Confidentially, he is a very good man, on his own, but I might in addition return his favours by helping to alleviate his main headache of office space by using my "leverage" with the Government to allocate UNCURK's most attractive headquarters to the UNDP and other UN Agencies here rather than to other hard pressed ROK agencies. The Foreign Minister already sympathized with my demarche in this regard.

I would be indebted for your support, upon my future request, to persuade UNDP officials there to hire UNCURK staff members with priority and without causing loss to tenure and seniority and with other benefits not spared.

Also, since with UNCURK's departure UNMCK's staff must be enlarged (UNCURK was doing almost all administrative, financial and clerical work of UNMCK), I personally advise as Custodian, that the number of additional posts to be allocated to this Pusan job should not be just skeletal but realistic in number; moreover, these posts should be taken from UNCURK.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary