

May 2, 1973
**Letters between Shail Upadhya and C.V.
Narasimhan**

Citation:

"Letters between Shail Upadhya and C.V. Narasimhan", May 2, 1973, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence general (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0008-05, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

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Summary:

Shail Upadhya sends Narasimhan a letter containing number of issues including DPRK's membership to WHO and rumor on Lee Hu-rak' house arrest.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Kyungnam University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

CVN/tab

603.1

cc - Mr. Shevchenko

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
UNCUKOR

CONFIDENTIAL

27 April 1973

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

CONFIDENTIAL

2 May 1973

It is generally agreed in official circles here that the forthcoming WEO Conference on the DPRK's application for membership in that organization will be a crucial test for ROK's efforts to secure another deferment of the Korean debate at the next session of the UN General Assembly. The General Conference of the WEO is scheduled to begin on 7 May when the question of DPRK's membership is to be opened again. The ROK is now engaged in intensive diplomatic activity to secure the WEO's admission to that body.

The ROK Government is fully aware that DPRK's success in securing admission to the WEO would automatically assure it an effective voice at the United Nations, would increase its diplomatic status, and thereby

Thank you for your confidential letter of 27 April

on various topics, the contents of which have been noted. Moreover, with the readily available presence of both ROK and DPRK delegations at the General Assembly, Member States sympathetic to the ROK might find it harder to agree to another deferment and equally hard to oppose an invitation to the DPRK to join the WEO. Yours sincerely,

In other words, there is full realization within the ROK Government that failure to block the DPRK's admission to the WEO would not only severely undermine the chances of another deferment but would result in set-backs for the ROK's diplomatic efforts. C.V. Narasimhan, Chief de Cabinet, is therefore seen as a vital test for ROK diplomacy and its strategy at the forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

Consequently, the ROK has launched a full-scale campaign to deny the DPRK its membership in the WEO. Several high-level ROK delegations are now visiting different countries to plead the ROK's case. Mr. Shail K. Upadhyaya, Foreign Minister, who was visiting Tokyo in an Acting Principal Secretary capacity, was reported to have urged the Japanese Government to join the ROK in co-sponsoring a proposal at the WEO General Conference to defer the question of the DPRK's admission until next year. In this connection the Foreign Minister informed us at a recent diplomatic reception that the ROK had the necessary votes to bring this about and predicted that the proposal for deferment would be passed by a margin of 20 votes.

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chief de Cabinet

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

27 April 1973

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

It is generally agreed in official circles here that the forthcoming WHO decision on the DPRK's application for membership in that organization will be a crucial test for ROK's efforts to secure another deferment of the Korean debate at the next session of the UN General Assembly. The General Conference of the WHO is scheduled to begin on 7 May when the question of DPRK's membership is to be decided upon. The ROK is now engaged in intense diplomatic activity to block the DPRK's admission to that body.

The ROK Government is fully aware that DPRK's success in gaining membership to the WHO would automatically assure it an observer status at the United Nations, would increase its diplomatic stature in the world and would secure access for its diplomats to the halls and corridors of the United Nations, thereby placing it in much better position to influence the voting in the General Assembly. Moreover, with the readily available presence of both Koreas at the United Nations, Member States sympathetic to the ROK might find it harder to agree to another deferment and equally hard to oppose an invitation to the DPRK to participate in the Korean debate, should it materialise.

In other words, there is full realization within the ROK Government that failure to block the DPRK's admission to the WHO would not only severely undermine the chances of another deferment but would result in set-backs for the ROK in regard to the more substantive aspects of the Korean question. The WHO vote is therefore seen as a vital test for ROK diplomacy and its strategy at the forthcoming UN General Assembly session.

Consequently, the ROK has launched a full-scale campaign to deny the DPRK its membership in the WHO. Several high-level ROK delegations are now visiting different countries to plead the ROK's case. Moreover, the ROK Foreign Minister, who was visiting Tokyo in connexion with the recent ECAFE session, was reported to have secured Japan's consent to join the ROK in co-sponsoring a proposal at the WHO General Conference to defer the question of the DPRK's admission until next year. In this connexion the Foreign Minister informed me at a recent diplomatic reception that the ROK had the necessary votes to bring this about and predicted that the proposal for deferment would be passed by a margin of 20 votes.

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

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In spite of the Foreign Minister's optimism, ROK officials are now engaged in feverish activity in an effort to forestall the DPRK's admission to the WHO this year.

* * *

Rumours abound in Seoul that Mr. Lee Hu Rak, the powerful CIA chief and considered President Park Chung Hee's right hand man, has fallen in disgrace and that he is now under house arrest. Repeated efforts on my part to verify the rumour have proved of no avail as nobody in authority or in the diplomatic circle pretends to know anything about it. So, while I hesitate to report this rumour without having been able to substantiate it, the rumour continues to persist, and prompts me to report it even at the risk that it might be groundless.

In the absence of any substantiation of the rumour it would be premature for me to dwell on the implications of Mr. Lee's alleged downfall. I only wished to inform you of the rumour, which continues unabated.

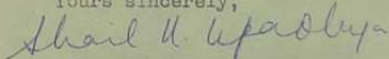
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As I had foreseen in my last letter, ROK charges of north Korean "provocations" continue to mount. On 24 April south Korean authorities announced that they had arrested a group of nine south Koreans working as espionage agents or collaborators for north Korea. The nine were arrested between 12 March and 4 April and investigation authorities reportedly seized a code book and several coded documents among other items.

The announcement is seen as a part of the anti-DPRK campaign now underway in the ROK as a prelude to creating an impasse in the North-South talks. As a local newspaper commented, the continuation of "provocative acts" by the DPRK would "virtually mean the suspension of the north-south dialogue". It warned the people to rekindle "a sense of anti-communism" and not lose sight of the fact that north Korea "has not altered its basic policy of unifying the peninsula under Communist tutelage..." This aptly reflects the current propaganda line adopted by the Government in relation to the DPRK.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



SHAIL UPADHYA
Acting Principal Secretary