

January 13, 1972

Letters between Narasimhan and Ozbudun

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Summary:

Updates on the intensification of military tension, Park Chung Hee's commitment to war preparations through heavy and chemical industries, hypothesis on Japan's view on the Korean question, and Park's support of Red Cross talks.

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF KOREA

CONFIDENTIAL

13 January 1972

SECRET

Dear Mr. Secretary,

13 January 1972

As you know it is my pleasure to inform you that I have received your letter of 10 January 1972. I have taken note of its contents and I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that I have taken note of its contents and I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that I have taken note of its contents.

Confidential No. 13

Dear Ahmet,

I acknowledge receipt of confidential letters No. 43 to 48. I have taken note of their contents and enclosures.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

cc - Mr. Kutakov
Mr. Muller

Mr. 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 48

7 January 1972

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

As you know it is physically and otherwise impossible for me to report to you on every pertinent matter through my letters. I have to be selective; yet I cover other important news items in the SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS for additional information.

Since I had a personal role in the formulation, methodology and presentation of this document during my first tour of duty with UNCURK back in 1959, I retained a sort of special interest in it since my third tour. I have hence endeavoured heretofore to make it more newsworthy by reverting from fortnightly to weekly issues. Moreover, I still manage to create time personally to edit and control the material after they are compiled by our Korean staff and checked by the Political and Economic Affairs Officers. Much effort goes into the process.

The document, as you know, is a compilation of official statements and news items appearing in Korean papers and publications and contains no restricted information. It has been appreciated by Members of the Commission and some other missions who have received courtesy copies on a private basis. This, in turn, helps enhance "public relations" and draws relevant information.

Not as a rule, but on rare occasions I use material in the document as bases for my weekly letters, this explains the reason for some duplication.

I hope you find time in your arduous schedules to glance at the Summary of Developments on occasions.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

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 :

7 January 1972

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON THE
DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY IN THE ROK

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

People's Korea,* in its 8 December 1971 edition which arrived a few days ago, reported on a statement issued on 7 December by the DPRK Foreign Ministry in connexion with the declaration of the State of National Emergency in the ROK. Certain excerpts read as follows:

"The Pak Jung Hi puppet clique are noisily talking about the 'threat of southward aggression from the North' in an attempt to justify all their treacherous acts and shift the responsibility for the rackets for the provocation of a new war onto the side of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"But, the tension is always created in our country by the US imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, not by our Republic.

"The Government of the Republic has made patient efforts to solve the question of Korea's reunification peacefully under all circumstances.

"We have no intention to 'invade the South' and cannot have.

"The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clarified this more than once and has invariably called for and is calling for concluding a peace agreement between the North and South, reducing the armies and relaxing the tension.

* This paper is an English-language weekly published in Japan by the leftist Korean organisation, the "Choryon".

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

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"The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will in the future, too, exert invariable efforts to solve the question of reunification independently by the Koreans themselves, peacefully without interference of any outside forces, after making all foreign troops withdraw from South Korea.

"As for the defence power of the Republic, it is for self-defence in the true sense of the word and is for defending the gains of socialism of the working class from the invasion by the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese militarists and their lackeys.

"Present developments in South Korea show that the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique may take a risk to get rid of the extreme crisis.

"The Korean people cannot but keep high vigilance against the enemy's machinations to provoke a new war.

"Should the enemy deal to unleash a new war, our people will deal a crushing counter-blow at the scoundrels and wipe them out to the last one."

In regard of the foregoing, I have two points to make:

First, the last three paragraphs in the statement indicate apprehension in Pyongyang regarding a ROK military move. If the DPRK itself indeed plans no attack, its fear of a most doubtful ROK attack is in itself capable mutually to escalate tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul to a point of no return especially since the ROK appears genuinely to fear an imminent attack.

Second, both Capitals have occasionally declared their respective peaceful intentions, especially to endeavour to achieve unification through peaceful means, however never concurrently.

Thence my proposal for some intermediary or good offices effort on the part of outsiders such as the NNSC Member States constituting the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to obtain and channel concurrent and parallel declarations from Pyongyang and Seoul of their good intentions and not ever becoming the first to launch a war.

This may go a long way in dispensing mutual distrust, ill-will and untoward escalation of tensions.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
AHM H. OZBUDUN
Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
(UNCURK)CONFIDENTIAL: No. 46

7 January 1972

ROK PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Although the Summary of Developments for this week, despatched to you under separate cover, give a rendition of President Park Chung Hee's New Year's Message to the nation, it is significant to report on it in a letter.

On 1 January, the President stated that the nation should establish a firm emergency posture in 1972 so that its potential energy could be promptly mobilized "at the right time and the right place" with a view to maintaining "total security". He stressed the need to reunify, what he called, dispersed national potentials in order to consolidate national order and to establish an "emergency system" based on the spirit of independence and self-reliance.

The President said: "Today we face a dual challenge: from the rapidly changing international situation and the malevolent ambition of the north Korean puppet regime, which has already completed war preparations against the ROK. ...In such a confrontation...our most pressing task in the year 1972 would certainly be the establishment of a perfect defence posture. Therefore, the nation should transform its industrial structure into a modern one through the development of heavy and chemical industries, such as iron and steel mills, machine factories, shipyards and the petrochemical industries so that we can produce rifles with our own hands, modernize military equipment and practice combat skills and tactics.

"Now is the time that we should value our deeds more than words... Therefore, pan-national cooperation, beyond individual and political interests, is needed to accomplish the very pressing task and to overcome the emergency situation on the Korean Peninsula, by enhancing civil defence capability, the Homeland Reserve Force, and by the appropriate military training of students."

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

In diplomacy, the Government would launch a self-reliant and practical "benefit-seeking diplomacy" with a view to ensuring national interests to the maximum extent, by coping with the rapidly changing international situation "dauntlessly and flexibly". He said, "we must take advantage of the seemingly adverse international situation to crush the communists' scheme to communize the whole of Korea and open the way for the peaceful unification of the nation."

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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

7 January 1972

REPORT ON AN ALLEGED INTENTION BY JAPAN TO HAVE
NORTH KOREA INVITED AS AN OBSERVER AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

On 30 December, the Nihon Keizai, an economic daily of Tokyo, reported that the Japanese Foreign Ministry was studying a plan to ask the United Nations to invite north Korea to join the ROK as an Observer at the world organisation, with the hope that this would help ease tensions in Northeast Asia. The daily gave no additional details.

The ROK Foreign Ministry denied on 30 December foreign wire despatches to that effect. Sources close to the Ministry said that the ROK Embassy in Tokyo reported after checking with the Japanese Foreign Ministry that it had found the despatches to be groundless.

However, my impression is that Japan, depending on the mood of the ROK's other allies and the overall political atmosphere at a future session, might possibly follow (if not lead) a move at least for unconditional invitation to both Koreas to participate in a UNGA discussion on Korea. Japan might even acquiesce to the idea of double-observer status for Pyongyang and Seoul if there are strong currents in that direction. However, I would doubt at this stage Tokyo's support for separate membership for the ROK and the DPRK at the United Nations.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ahmet H. Oztudun".

Ahmet H. Oztudun
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. 44

7 January 1972

ROK PRESIDENT ON NORTH-SOUTH RED CROSS TALKS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

In his New Year's Message, President Park Chung Hee stated that the Government would positively support the current North-South Red Cross talks and would exert utmost efforts to persuade the "north Korean puppet regime" to open the full-dress talks in the New Year so that the distress of the separated families in south and north Korea could be alleviated.

I still have doubts regarding full sincerity on the part of both sides. Some sort of mediatory jolt from the outside might have salutary effects to speed up the process.

The 14th preliminary meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10 January 1972.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, 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. 43

4 January 1972

THE NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON KOREA

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

I am very grateful for your NYT editorial clipping of 28 December 1971, entitled "Korea's Real Emergency" which you pouched to me on the same day.

As there was no Committee meeting since the receipt of the clipping, I sent copies to members of the Delegations under a private-confidential cover for their information.

While I am impressed by the editorial, it is naturally impossible for me to agree in all respects. You have noted basic differences between the editorial and my humble yet considered views on various pertinent points.

With much appreciation, warmest regards and renewed wishes for a most happy New Year,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ahmet H. Ozbudun".

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