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

Seoul, 4 July 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

All throughout this week students in national universities in Seoul and other main cities in Korea have been holding rallies and staging demonstrations against the contemplated attempt to amend the Constitution which would permit President Chung Hee Park to run for a third term. The demonstrations appeared to have gathered momentum towards the end of the week and seemed to have posed a security problem for the Government. Although these demonstrations have been confined mainly to universities' campuses and grounds, there were however cases where students have succeeded in reaching certain business districts in towns and in clashing with the police. The students however are not unanimous or clear on their demands from the Government. Their demonstrations seemed to be more an "act of anger" against the very principle of attempting to amend the Constitution than a well-organized protest movement. The opposition party, the New Democratic Party, took advantage of this situation and pressed its demands on the President to come out with a clear statement defining his attitude on the question of Constitutional amendment. So far, President Chung Hee Park has not committed himself concerning the third-term moves, he has often said that the nation badly needs political stability to continue economic growth. The objective of the opposition party as well as the students demonstration seems to create conditions under which President Chung Hee Park would be forced to spell out clearly his views on this matter. At present, the national police has been able to cope with the student demonstrations but there is a persistent talk that should the police be unable to curb the demonstrators, the use of the army could be referred to.

As to the attitude of the ROK government on the Korean question, you may recall that I have mentioned in my cable No. 92 dated 2 July that the ROK government favours a debate in the General Assembly on the Korean question. Further to this I have been given

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

the impression through my talks with officials of the ROK Foreign Ministry that they would like the report of UNCURK to the Secretary-General be submitted earlier than the time decided on during the Commission's session in Sapporo which is around the first week of September. However, I do not expect the Commission to meet earlier for that purpose and some members of the Commission feel that there should be no change in that date.

I also understood that there are, presently, consultations going on between the ROK government and the United States in Seoul regarding the Korean question at the United Nations, and that although the U.S. government is discouraging efforts to bring up the Korean question again this year, it is reported to be however ready to meet the issue should it be proposed for discussion again at the United Nations.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary