

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA
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Seoul, 18 May 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Commission held its second session of the year at its Headquarters in Seoul from 11 to 13 May 1970 under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador J.Q. Bas Backer. All the countries on the Commission were represented with the exception of Pakistan whose Representative, Ambassador S.M. Murshed, as I understood, had already departed Japan for Pakistan.

The first day of the session was devoted to the organization of its work, a courtesy call on the ROK President Park Chung Hee and a briefing by the United Nations Command. The members were able to have a useful exchange of views with the President on a number of questions related to the domestic and foreign policies of the ROK Government. Of particular interest to note in this respect is the statement made by the President to the members in which he placed again on record that his Government would never resort to the use of arms in order to achieve unification of both South and North Korea. On the other hand, the President advanced strong views with regard to the continued presence of the U.N. forces in the Republic of Korea. As he himself sees it, the coming 4-5 years are, in his opinion, the most critical in terms of the future of Korea because of the introduction of the third five-year plan and its impact on the rapid economic development of the country. He stated to the members that he was entirely opposed to any suggestion calling for a reduction of U.S. forces in the ROK because of what may result from this action. He also reminded the members that the security of the Korean peninsula is still very much the concern of the United Nations and he cannot see how the U.N. can be disinterested if sudden hostilities erupt in this part of the World.

The briefing held at the United Nations Command in the afternoon of 11 May dealt mainly with the general security situation in Korea. As explained by the Commander-in-Chief

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

of the U.N. forces, General J.H. Michaelis, the Command's strategy is based entirely on a deterrent concept and also takes into consideration the possibility of surprise air attack from the north. While the number of infiltrations across the DMZ during the early part of 1970 has already been decreasing, the C-in-C pointed out that there has been a noted increase in the number of sea-borne infiltrations. The C-in-C also emphasized his hope that the preservation of the status quo in Korea would also be in the interest of other neighbouring countries, such as Communist China and the U.S.S.R.

With regard to the work of the session, the Commission considered the second draft report, prepared by its Committee, to be submitted to the U.N. Secretary-General, and proposed certain suggestions and amendments. It also reviewed extensively the political situation as well as the most recent economic trends in the country. The members of the Commission agreed that the final conclusion and observation in the report will be incorporated in the last draft at the time when they will be reconvening in Seoul on 11 August. The field trip which the member undertook to the north-eastern front and to the coastal areas has enabled them to study on the spot the recent measures taken by the ROK authorities to strengthen their defence lines as well as their programme to set up new defence hamlets in the remote and indefensible areas.

As the situation stands now, it is hoped that the Commission will finalize and sign its forthcoming report on 11 and 12 August in order to forward it to the Secretary-General on the understanding that it should be transmitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should an item on Korea be inscribed in the provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

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Principal Secretary