

July 11, 1969

Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning ROK Student Protests

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the student protests against a contemplated Constitutional amendment. Kuzbari considers the ROK government reaction and the protests' effects to internal stability.

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UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, 11 July 1969

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The political storm which had swept the Republic of Korea during the last two weeks, because of student demonstrations against the contemplated Constitutional amendment, seems to have subsided now. With most universities and schools now closed for summer recess the Government could well buy time in order to meet their challenge. The real test could, however, take place next September when universities and schools will be re-opened again.

In the meantime, President Chung Hee Park made a statement on July 7 indicating that if an amendment to the Constitution is needed it should only be through legal procedures. The statement did not clarify his real position on that issue nor his intentions but was interpreted as moving closer to seeking an amendment of the Constitution and permitting the ruling Democratic Republican Party (DRP) to bring up the question openly when it deems appropriate. Previously, the President has imposed a ban on his ruling party not to discuss the issue officially, but with this statement, the DRP is expected to counter the anti-Constitutional amendment movement with mobilizing public opinion in favour of it. At any rate, should there be no solution or compromise on this important issue, the country could well be heading towards a major political split among its parties in the near future. The Committee of UNCURK has been watching these developments and studying their impact on the internal stability of the ROK.

As to the situation along the DMZ, it had been unusually calm for the last three weeks with no significant incidents.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Zouheir Kuzbari".

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

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