November 23, 1971
Letters between Narasimhan and Ozbudun

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Summary:
Ozbudun updates Narasimhan on domestic and international affairs in ROK. The 9th preliminary Red Cross talks made no progress. The ROK government worries that PRC’s entry in the UN will affect the UN Korean question discussion. A Russian reporter may visit Seoul to sound out potential trade relations. Japan decides to forgo trade and banking relations with North Korea.

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Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Today, representatives of the ROK and the DPRK Red Cross Societies held their ninth preliminary meeting at Panmunjom. No progress was reported at the end of the two-hour-and-ten-minute session. The parties were said to have maintained their previous stands on the issue of the agenda for the full-dress negotiations. The tenth preliminary meeting is scheduled for 24 November.

CONFIDENTIAL No. 5

23 November 1971

Dear Ahmet,

I have received your confidential letters Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of 19 November. I have taken note of their contents.

With kind regards,

Thus far, the Red Cross talks have remained in the tight shackles of mutual propaganda brinkmanship. However, the very continuation of face to face talks on a sincere and solemn level, if at all possible, on the part of both the ROK and the DPRK.

Yours sincerely,

With kindest regards,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

Mr. Ahmet H. Ozbudun
 Principal Secretary
UN CURK
Seoul, Korea

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

Today, representatives of the ROK and the DPRK Red Cross Societies held their ninth preliminary meeting at Panmunjom. No progress was reported at the end of the two-hour-and-ten-minute session. The parties were said to have reiterated their previous stands on the issue of the agenda for the full-dress negotiations. The tenth preliminary meeting is scheduled for 24 November.

I must persist in the opinion that notwithstanding the impact and pressures of new international factors -- including the PRC's entry into the UN -- it would involve arduous negotiations and further formative developments to place the talks on a sincere and solemn level, if at all possible, on the part of both the ROK and the DPRK.

Thus far, the Red Cross talks have remained in the tight shackles of mutual propaganda brinkmanship. However, the very continuation of face to face contact between Seoul and Pyongyang, even in the currently unproductive form, is probably most useful in the final analysis.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York
IMPACT ON THE ROK OF THE PRC'S ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Reactions within the ROK officialdom to the PRC’s entry into the UN, continue with full vigour.

During the National Assembly inspection of the Foreign Ministry on 18 November 1971, the ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs answered questions on the future impact of the Chinese entry on the Korean question. He was reported to have said that the Government maintained firm confidence that it could defeat any proposal that may be put forth next year by the PRC in the UN concerning the annulment of the UN Korean resolutions, including the dissolution of UNCURK and the withdrawal of the UN forces from Korea.

The Minister reportedly admitted that the majority margin in favour of the ROK might slightly be altered as the UN would undergo transformation following the PRC's entry. He added that the Government was formulating diplomatic strategies to cope effectively with any future situation that could seriously affect the national interests, such as the simultaneous admission into the UN of south and north Korea.

The Minister reiterated that basically the Chinese impact would not affect the Korean question at the UN.

He was reported meanwhile to have stated also that the ROK Government would adhere, under any circumstances, to the current unification formula under which a general Korean election would be held under UN supervision.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Oztudun
Principal Secretary

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York
19 November 1971

REPORTED VISIT OF A SOVIET CORRESPONDENT,
MR. VICTOR LOUIS, TO THE ROK

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The Wall Street Journal reported on 12 November on its front page column, entitled "Washington Wire", that Mr. Victor Louis, a Russian news reporter, might visit Seoul soon to sound out prospects for political and trade ties. The paper also said that the ROK, concerned over continuing US withdrawal from Asia, sought better relations with mainland China and the Soviet Union.

Questioned about this foreign wire despatch, the ROK Foreign Minister testified on 18 November that the Government had instructed its overseas missions concerned to check the news report. He denied any knowledge of the aforesaid journalist's visit to the ROK.

Pending confirmation, it is useful to point out herewith that, if true, the aforesaid visit is yet another indication of the ROK's determination to seek relations with certain Socialist countries in the wake of the impact of Peking's entry into the Organisation.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York
CONFIDENTIAL: No. 12

19 November 1971

JAPAN-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Shik testified before the Foreign Affairs Committee inspection team on 18 November that the Government was watching with keen concern developments concerning Japan-north Korean contacts. He said that ROK Ambassador to Japan Lee Ho had confirmed from Japanese Foreign Minister Fukuda on 8 November that Japan had decided not to permit establishment of a north Korean trade mission in Japan. He said that the ROK Government opposed the use of Japan Ex-Im Bank funds by north Korea for the latter's import of manufacturing plants.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbadun
Principal Secretary

Mr. C. V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York
THE QUESTION OF REPLACING
THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE UNCMAC

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

In reply to a question by NDP Assemblyman Kim Dae Jung during the National Assembly Defence Committee inspection on 17 November, Minister of National Defence Yu Joe Heung stated that the ROK Government was ready to take over at any time the senior membership of the UN Command component of the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom, but that replacement would be determined at an appropriate time in careful consultation with the UNC and the ROK Government authorities concerned because "it is not only an important question on our foreign policy, but also it may lead to a question of dissolution of the UNC in the ROK."

With regard to a question of replacement of the senior member of the UN Command component of the MAC, Foreign Minister Kim Yong Shik during the parliamentary inspection on 18 November stated that the "question of the replacement" would be worth to study if and when the UNC officially requested the matter. He said: "We are not going to insist and request the UNC to do so", adding that the Government had not received any such request from the UNC.

I will further report on this matter if and when warranted. However, it suffices to say at this juncture that if the matter of appointing a ROK Senior Member to the MAC were to be raised officially it would have far-reaching implications.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet N. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

Mr. M.C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York
CONFIDENTIAL: No. 14

19 November 1971

US SECRETARY OF STATE ON US POLICY ON KOREA

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

On 12 November, in reply to a question at the annual convention of Sigma Delta Chi (SDC), as to whether the US had a two-Korea and two-Vietnam policy as it had a two-China policy, US Secretary of State William P. Rogers gave, what may be considered a cryptic reply.

Mr. Rogers said: "We felt that in the case of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China, it could be well to have both represented, not because of the two-China policy but it was a practical matter. We are pleased that the discussions are going on between the two parts of Korea."

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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