

October 16, 1970

**Letters, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning DMZ
Incidents and MAC**

Citation:

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of the UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea Zouheir Kuzbari updates Chef de Cabinet of the UN C.V. Narasimhan on the armed clashes between North Korean infiltrators and ROK Army soldiers and proposal of joint measures between MAC and DPRK to alleviate tensions in the Joint Security Area.

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Mr. Narasimhan
cc. Mr. Kutakov
Mr. Muller

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

Confidential
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28 October 1970

Seoul, 16 October 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The tempo of incidents involving armed clashes between the reported North Korean infiltrators and the ROK army soldiers Dear Mr. Kuzbari, this week. Particular attention is also being given at the same time to the activities along the eastern coastal DMZ. I acknowledge receipt of your four letters dated 16 and 23 October respectively enclosing a copy of the Summary of DMZ Incidents covering the period from 4 through 11 October 1970, a copy of the Summary of Developments covering the period from 4 to 17 October 1970 and a copy of the Summary of DMZ Incidents covering the period from 11 through 18 October. The official communiques, include armed engagements between the North Korean side and the ROK forces in the Han River estuary.

I send copy of this correspondence to the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Yours sincerely,

Robert G. Muller
Director

Mr. Z. Kuzbari
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul
Korea

Meanwhile, it was reported here that the US-ROK talks on the modernization of the ROK armed forces have been completed. The

Mr. G.V. Narasimhan
Chief de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

UNITED NATIONS



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

Seoul, 16 October 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The tempo of incidents involving armed clashes between the reported North Korean infiltrators and the ROK Army soldiers continues to rise this week. Particular emphasis is also being given at the same time to the existing tense situation at Panmunjom, the MAC Headquarters, where another clash between a number of North Koreans and UNC guards took place on 12 October. The breakdown of the numbers of incidents along the DMZ and on the western coastal areas from the first week of October until the middle of the month indicates clearly that there has been a step-up of activities, the most important of which was the reported sinking on 10 October of a North Korean vessel with its crew on the north-eastern coast. The ROK Navy chased the boat for 12 hours and engaged with it in a firefight. No survivors were reported. Other incidents, according to the ROK official communiques, include armed engagements between the North Korean side and the ROK forces in the Han River estuary.

The situation at the truce site of Panmunjom remains tense this week because of the reported affray between the North Koreans and UNC guards in the Joint Security Area. The U.N. Command charged on 13 October that the North Korean guards started a fight with a UNC soldier after pulling the latter's armband off and that a large number of North Korean civilian workers nearby, armed with shovels, clubs and rocks, rushed into the scuffle which appeared to the UNC as a "deliberately planned battle". The Pyongyang Radio, on the other hand, broadcast an account of this clash in which it accused the UNC side of "provoking the attack". A Swiss officer belonging to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission was reported injured upon trying to rescue the American personnel. The incident has resulted in a boycotting by the UNC side of the MAC meeting this week. It was stated that the UNC would return to the meeting if the North Korean workers are excluded from the Joint Security Area. It is significant, however, that this is the first time that the MAC meeting has been cancelled and boycotted by either side due to a tense atmosphere at Panmunjom.

Meanwhile, it was reported here that the US-ROK talks on the modernization of the ROK armed forces have been completed. The

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

Robert
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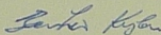
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daily Dong-a Ilbo quoted today a highly placed military source that the US and ROK sides have reached an accord on the items, quantities and methods of delivery of the equipment and arms to be provided to South Korea. The ROK Government is reported to have given its agreement to the withdrawal of one US division by the end of 1971.

Particular attention has also been given this week to the forthcoming fifth congress of the North Korean workers' party which will be reconvened in Pyongyang on 2 November 1970. The session of the congress is the first to be held since 1966. The DPRK Central News Agency reported on 14 October that "the session will demonstrate the unitary ideological system of the party which has been firmly established in the whole party and the great achievements which have been made in the construction of North Korea".

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary

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Seoul, 23 October 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

Tension at the MAC Headquarters in Panmunjom resulting from the affray between the North Korean and UNC guards on 12 October is reported to have subsided. At one point, it was feared that the U.N. Command's Senior Member on the Military Armistice Commission would walk out of the MAC meeting of 17 October if the North Korean side did not withdraw their workers from the Joint Security Area. During that meeting, the UNC side proposed to the DPRK that joint measures be taken to alleviate tension in the Joint Security Area and submitted six proposals designed to eliminate sources of clashes in the area. These proposals included the limitation of the number of guards on both sides that can be present in that area to 30 enlisted men and five officers and to completely disarm the Joint Security Area security force. The proposals also suggested that security officers on both sides meet to inspect their present guard installations and to prohibit all guests and workers from that area while any meeting of the MAC and the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission is in session. These proposals appear to aim at creating a better atmosphere for holding the MAC sessions in Panmunjom, and to avert possible clashes between guards of both sides.

The situation in the MAC has been brought to the attention of the Committee of UNCURK, but no specific suggestion or action has been considered in this connexion. The majority feeling of the Committee is that everything should be done by the two sides to maintain the existing armistice machinery, which is the only way to prevent further deterioration of the situation. The members expressed the hope that the UNC and the North Korean sides will exercise control in their respective sectors of the Joint Security Area in order to keep it as an unarmed zone for the continuation of the operation of the MAC.

With warmest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Zouheir Kuzbari in blue ink.

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal SecretaryMr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York