

December 24, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan, Concerning the
Reshuffle of the Cabinet in the ROK**

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Summary:

Principal Secretary of UNCURK Zouheir Kuzbari writes Chef de Cabinet of UN C.V. Narasimhan about the reshuffling of the Cabinet of the ROK and its impact on the domestic political scene.

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cc: Mr. Kutakov

30 December 1970

My dear Kuzbari,

I acknowledge receipt of your confidential letter of 24 December regarding the reshuffle of the Cabinet of the ROK.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de CabinetMr. Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul
KoreaMr. C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet
United Nations
New York

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 24 December 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The most important development this week has been the reshuffle of the Republic of Korea Cabinet and its impact on the domestic political scene. On 19 December 1970, President Park Chung Hee nominated Mr. Paik Too Chin, a former Prime Minister and presently a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, as the new Premier. Mr. Paik is known for his administrative and financial capabilities and his Government is expected to supervise the forthcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections during the next year. Most of the former Cabinet members retained their posts with the exception of the Justice, the Agriculture-Forestry and the Communications Ministers. The President also appointed his former chief presidential secretary and now the Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Lee Hu Rak, as the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Lee, although known for his competence, is a controversial figure in view of the accusations against him for his business connections.

The new Cabinet could be well described as a stop-gap arrangement designed to allow the President and his party to map out the election strategy. It is not expected to make major policy decisions, but will have before it two tasks: (a) the management of the forthcoming elections and (b) the revitalisation of the Republic of Korea economy. On the first issue, the opposition New Democratic Party is well aware that the main campaigning issue will be centered around "corruption" among high government members and will therefore watch carefully for the measures to be taken by it in order to remedy this situation. As to the other aspect, the new Cabinet is faced with certain recessionary trends in the country as a result of an overheated economy. It is well known that the Government has set for itself an ambitious export target for 1971 (\$1.350 billion -- an increase of 35% over 1970), and the problem facing it now is how to meet this target without any dislocation in the economy. The new Premier is known to favour less government monetary expansion

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

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but more emphasis on the development of private businesses. As a part to meet the new export target for 1971, the National Assembly has approved an amendment to the Trade Law in order to allow the Government to liberalise its trade policy with what is described as the "non-hostile communist countries". The Government views this step as a necessary measure to lessen its dependency on the United States and Japan. It is not clear, though, how the Government will go about this since the socialist and communist countries in Europe maintain close and strong relations with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

With my warmest season's greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Zouheir Kuzbari

Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary