

December 31, 1970

**Letter, UNCURK Principal Secretary Kuzbari to UN
Chef de Cabinet Narasimhan**

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Summary:

Kuzbari briefs Narasimhan on election and national security updates in South Korea, including the campaigns of Kim Dae Jung and Park Chung Hee; the debate over ROK forces in Vietnam; DPRK and ROK naval clashes over what DPRK speculates to be a spy boat but ROK states is a fishing boat; and discussion concerning the return of the North Korean pilot who crash landed in South Korea.

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NATIONS UNIES

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

Seoul, 31 December 1970

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

President Park Chung Hee has moved this week one step further in his plans to consolidate his grip over his ruling Democratic Republican Party (DRP) in preparation for the Presidential and National Assembly elections next spring. On 26 December 1970, he nominated the outgoing Prime Minister, Chung Il Kwon, the former DRP Chairman, Kim Chong Pil, and the former Acting DRP Chairman, Yun Tchi Young, as standing advisers to him in planning the DRP election campaign. The three politicians, though at variance in their political outlook, share the same loyalty to him. The move is aimed at bringing various factions of the party under one single command and to form a solid front against the mounting opposition of the rival New Democratic Party (NDF). The President himself is expected to start campaigning after his nomination by the DRP in mid-February. On the other hand, the opposition NDF called on its prominent members to run for the elections in the rural areas and to demonstrate the Government's failure in bridging the gap between the poverty-stricken rural districts and the rapidly expanding urban centers. In addition, the NDF presidential candidate, Kim Dae Jung, brought forward this week another issue in the election campaign. He stated on 29 December that, if elected, he would withdraw the Republic of Korea troops from Viet-Nam. The participation of the South Korean armed forces in the Viet-Nam war has been a hot issue between the Government and the opposition parties.

With regard to the security situation here, it was reported on 26 December that a naval clash took place off the East Coast, north of the Demilitarized Zone, between some North Korean speedboats and South Korean naval vessels. The North Korean Central News Agency claimed that they had intercepted a South Korean "spy ship", which had intruded into their territorial waters, while the Republic of Korea Ministry of

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

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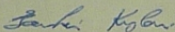
Defence claimed that the North Korean speedboats attempted to abduct a South Korean fishing boat which had drifted northward due to an engine failure. The incident itself appeared to be quite obscured and no detailed information has been made public on it.

The private meeting which was held in Panmunjom on 20 December 1970 between the U.N. Command and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sides to discuss the return of the North Korean pilot, Major Pak Song Guk, who crash-landed on the East Coast on 3 December 1970 failed to produce a common formula on how to return the pilot to North Korea. It is expected, though, that further private meetings will be held to solve this issue.

The U.N. Command described the situation along the DMZ as very quiet and reported no incidents of particular significance since the end of last month.

With my warmest season's greetings,

Yours sincerely,



Zouheir Kuzbari
Principal Secretary