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January 5, 1972
Letters between Narasimhan and Ozbudun

Citation:

"Letters between Narasimhan and Ozbudun", January 5, 1972, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0006-01, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus. https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/117680

Summary:

Updates on UNCURK and UN member departures, the Tae Yun Gak Hotel fire, reaction to the Special Law on National Security and Defense, and Japan's continued economic aid to ROK and discontinuation of ties with North Korea.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

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603.1

CVN/mac

c.c. Mr. Kutakov
Mr. Muller

5 January 1972

Confidential No. 12

Dear Ahmet,

I have received your confidential letters Nos. 38 to 42, and have taken note of their contents.

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul
Korea

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

(2)

CONFIDENTIAL: No.38

27 December 1971

UNCURK'S RESOLUTION ON THE DEPARTING REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The following is the text of a resolution adopted by UNCURK at its 617th meeting held on 16 December 1971 in Tokyo, Japan, concerning the departure from the Commission of the Representative of Turkey, H.E. Ambassador Bülend N. Kestelli:

"Resolution adopted by the Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea at its 617th meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, on 16 December 1971, paying tribute to H.E. Ambassador Bülend N. Kestelli, Representative of Turkey on UNCURK, in connexion with his contribution to the work of the Commission

"The Members of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK),

"Noting with profound regret that the outstanding tenure of H.E. Ambassador Bülend N. Kestelli, Representative of Turkey on the Commission, has come to an end;

"Recalling with fond and heartfelt gratitude his numerous and invaludable contributions to the work of the Commission and its Committee;

"Stressing Ambassador Kestelli's qualities of leadership and many other attributes, including his high competence, expertise and congeniality, have been a source of inspiration in the Commission, as have his conscientious and painstaking endeavours to represent effectively the political presence of the United Nations in Korea;

"Express, along with the members of the Secretariat of UNCURK, the heartfelt gratitude for his admirable guidance and cooperation and over-all kindness throughout his service with the Commission for which all concerned are sincerely grateful;

"Convey to him their warm compliments and very best wishes for success and happiness in his new assignments, where he will mosts certainly continue to contribute to the goals of the United Nations;

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

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"Also convey to the Government of Turkey their utmost appreciation for having made available to UNCURK the most rewarding services of Ambassador Kestelli; and

"Request the Secretariat of the Commission to forward the text of this resolution to the Secretary-General and to the Government of Turkey."

In accordance with the request made in the last paragraph of the resolution, I will convey to the Foreign Ministry of Turkey the contents of the aforesaid resolution through the good offices of the Chargé d'Affaires of Turkey in the ROK, who is concurrently the Alternate Representative of Turkey on UNCURK.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL No. 39

28 December 1971

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES OF UNCURK

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

I failed to submit to you copies of two cables addressed respectively to Their Excellencies, the outgoing and incoming Secretaries-General upon the request of the Members of UNCURK on 23 December 1971.

The first one reads as follows:

"HIS EXCELLENCY U THANT
SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

"EXCELLENCY,

"ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR IMPENDING DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OUR ORGANISATION AFTER A DECADE OF ARDUOUS BUT OUTSTANDING AND INDISPENSABLE LEADERSHIP, THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA CONVEY TO YOU THEIR HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS AND VERY BEST WISHES FOR HEALTH, SUCCESS AND WELFARE IN FURTHER CONTRIBUTING BRILLIANTLY TO THE MAKING OF HISTORY.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, OUR CONTINUED PERSONAL DEVOTION ALONG WITH OUR WARMEST NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS, AND THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

"OZBUDUN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
UNCURK"

The second reads as follows:

"HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL-ELECT
UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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

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"EXCELLENCY,

"THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA CONVEY TO YOU THEIR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR ELECTION AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF OUR UNITED NATIONS.

"IN OFFERING TO YOU THEIR HEARTIEST SEASON'S GREETINGS AND VERY BEST WISHES FOR HEALTH, SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS, THEY EXTEND TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THEIR FULLEST SUPPORT.

"WITH THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF OUR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

"OZBUDUN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
UNCURK"

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL/NO

29 December 1971

THE CHRISTMAS DAY CONFLAGRATION IN SEOUL
AND THE MATTER OF THE R.O.K. DEFENCE POSTURE

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

On 25 December 1971, a heartbreaking conflagration consumed the 22-story touristic Tae Yun Gak Hotel which was only completed in 1969. The number of those who lost their lives in the 10-hour blaze and the jumps to death heretofore total 164 and those hurt number 60. This is reported to be the worst hotel fire in history.

The point of this letter is to point out the pitiful laxity of fire-prevention and fire-construction and the pathetic provisions for fire-fighting in Seoul that have together contributed to the enormity of the losses incurred. These, along with the grossly over-populated and congested Capital justify, perhaps to a large degree, the rampant fear of a possible Blitzkrieg air attack on the City as well as the contemplated measures to enhance its defence posture. The population of the City, when I last left it at the end of 1964, was 2.5 million; now it stands at 6 million, a more-than-double increase in seven years.

Besides improving the hitherto neglected protection of Seoul, measures may be expected inter alia to limit the constant inflow of population from the rural to the urban areas, if not also to endeavour to depopulate the cities, especially the Capital.

... Attached, for your information, is a Press Release issued on the occasion of the fire-disaster.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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

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UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE
UNIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

Press Release
No. 71/19

Seoul, Republic of Korea
29 December 1971

At its 744th meeting today, the Committee of the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) has taken note of the unfortunate loss of life incurred in the disastrous conflagration at Tae Yun Gak Hotel on 25 December 1971.

The members of the Delegations and the Secretariat of UNCURK extend their heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for this profound tragedy. They further share with the bereaved families involved their deep sorrow, and convey to those who were hurt in the fire their heartfelt wishes for speedy and full recovery.

국 제 연 합 한 국 통 일 부 흥 위 원 단

보도자료
제 71/19호

대한민국 서울발표
1971년 12월 29일

국제연합한국통일부흥위원단 (언커크)의 위원회는 오늘 열린 제 744차 회의에서 1971년 12월 25일 대연각 호텔에서의 비참한 화재로 인한 불행스러운 인명손실에 유의했다.

언커크의 대표단 및 사무국일동은 이 커다란 참화에 대하여 대한민국 정부 및 국민에게 충심으로 조의를 표한다. 또한 관계 유가족들과 슬픔을 함께 나누며 화재로 인한 부상자들의 조속한 완쾌를 진심으로 바란다.

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CONFIDENTIAL 29 December 1971

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... Attached, for your information, is a Press Release issued on the occasion of the fire-disaster.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL No. 41

29 December 1971

THE PASSAGE OF THE SPECIAL LAW BY THE ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

I believe that the controversial passage by the National Assembly of the Special Law on the National Security and Defence is adequately reflected in the Summary of Developments covering the period 22-28 December 1971, which is submitted to you under separate cover (see pp. 4-9). Moreover, the annexed internal Note affords further information.

The only other passage along similar lines occured on 14 September 1969 when the National Assembly dealt with the Constitutional Amendment enabling the President to run for a third term. */

The adoption of the Special Law would be challenged for a long time by the opposition New Democratic Party as "railroading" or "steamrolling" and as an "illegal and void" act. Meanwhile it will be defended by the government Democratic Republican Party as the only legal means available to avert the "untenable", "unlawful" and "obstructionist" tactics by the Opposition.

The point basically in question is whether the act of passage would lead to "excessive" implementation, or worse, to the dissolution of the National Assembly, etc., which may adversely affect the image of the ROK on the international scene, especially at the UN level.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary

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*/ "39. On 14 September 1969, the Constitutional Amendment Bill and the National Referendum Bill were adopted in an annex building of the National Assembly, without the prior knowledge and participation of the New Democratic Party members, four splinter party members and one Democratic Republican Party member. It was stated by the ruling Democratic Republican Party that this course was followed because the opposition party with some adherents had staged a sit-in demonstration in the main chamber of the National Assembly in order to block the consideration and adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Bill." (UNCURK Report, Twenty-Fifth Session, Supp. No. 26(A/8026), p. 11)

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

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28 December 1971

Note on the passage of the Special Law on the National Security and Defence by the National Assembly

The DRP held a caucus meeting, including two independents, at 1:40 a.m. 27 December at Yongbin Gwan (State Guest House) and decided to pass the disputed bill on the Special Law on the National Security and Defence unilaterally, without notifying the NDP members.

One hundred and eleven members of the DRP and two independent members, aboard several separate buses, headed for the No. 4 Annex building of the National Assembly at 2:45 a.m. on the same morning, and entered the conference room of the Foreign Affairs Committee through a backdoor of the building.

Around two o'clock in the morning, Speaker of the Assembly Paik Too Chin officially requested the Home Minister to guard the Annex building in order to prevent possible scuffling between the DRP and the NDP members. Subsequently, the building was thoroughly protected by armed police patrols. Only three reporters from two daily newspapers and a news agency were allowed to enter the conference room to cover the passage of the bill.

Chairman Koh Jae Pil of the Legislation-Judiciary Committee found no objection to passing the bill, without modification, as the DRP members had proposed. It took barely one minute in passing the bill at the Committee.

As soon as the Committee passed the bill, Speaker Paik Too Chin, opening the plenary session, said that he had to change the site for parliamentary discussion on the bill to the Foreign Affairs Committee conference room due to the occupation of the main chamber of the Assembly by the NDP members, and asked for the DRP members understanding. He also said that he had to summon the plenary session at 3 a.m. in accordance with Article 66 of the National Assembly Law 1/. Speaker Paik, omitting the normal procedures of giving explanations on the proposed bill, question and answer and general debate, passed the bill without modification. It took only two minutes from the opening to the closure of the session.

While all this was taking place, the members of the NDP, in separate groups, were occupying the main chamber and conference rooms of Legislation and Judiciary and other Committees located in Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Annex buildings. Two of the NDP members who were at the Foreign Affairs Committee were forced by the DRP members to remain in an annex room of the Committee until the session was over. Some other NDP members clashed with the police patrols when the opposition members tried to breakthrough the police cordon outside the annex building.

The Law was promulgated by the Government on 27 December.

1/ Article 66 of the National Assembly Law: (Opening) Sitting of a session of the National Assembly shall be made at 10 a.m. However, the time may be changed when there has been a resolution of the National Assembly or when the Speaker deems it necessary.

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NDP response

After the emergency meeting of the NDP at the main chamber of the National Assembly on 27 December, the NDP Spokesman Kim Su Han said that his Party would not recognize the legality of the passage of the bill and continue its occupation of the National Assembly until 29 December, end of the current session.

Some of the NDP Assemblymen, who were staging sit-in demonstration at the main chamber of the National Assembly, displayed placards in front of the Assembly building, reading "Passage of the bill is invalid," and "The ruling party should apologize for its sneak passage of the bill", insisted that they should abandon their Assemblymenship in protest against the "illegal" passage of the bill, but their insistence was not adopted as the party policy.

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CONFIDENTIAL

29 December 1971

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

CONFIDENTIAL: No.42

29 December 1971

JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARDS THE ROK: FOREIGN MINISTER FUKUDA

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

I am conveying to you the following on the reported significant remarks of Japanese Foreign Minister Takeo Fukuda in view of the leading role Japan has heretofore played in the consideration of the Korean question at the United Nations:

In a reply on 22 December to a questionnaire by the Donghwa News Agency in Seoul, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeo Fukuda said that, despite Japan's current approach toward the PRC and its move to expand exchanges with north Korea, there was no change whatsoever in its basic policy of maintaining cooperative relations with the ROK, as the only lawful Government on the Korean Peninsula.

There appeared, however, that Mr. Fukuda's statement contained implicit reservations which do not support the ROK stand unequivocally:

First, on the possible simultaneous invitation of south and north Korea to UN next year, Foreign Minister Fukuda said that the Japanese Government would act cautiously in consultation with friendly nations and in consideration of the situation on the Korean Peninsula at that time.

Second, commenting on the possible simultaneous admission into the United Nations of south and north Korea, Foreign Minister Fukuda said: "The Korean question involves a very complicated situation inherited from the past. The question of simultaneous admission of south and north Korea into the UN should be considered along with such situation and should be reviewed by taking into full consideration the position of the two parties and their wishes. It would be proper to cope with the matter after consultations with other Member States of the Organisation and in view of the contribution in easing tension in the Far East."

The remaining portion of the statement evidently is in full support of the ROK:

Regarding the Korean question at the United Nations, the Foreign Minister stated that the Japanese Government supported the presence in the ROK of the UN Command and the activities of UNCURK.

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

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Minister Fukuda also stated that he could not think of peace and prosperity of Japan without peace and stabilisation on the Korean Peninsula. He said that the Japanese Government intended to render all possible assistance to the ROK in order to ensure further economic development and social well-being through the Third Five-Year Economic Development Plan of the ROK.

Commenting on the reports about the north Korean demand for the cancellation of the ROK-Japan Treaty, Minister Fukuda said: "We have never thought of scrapping the Treaty which serves as a basis for the friendly relations between the two countries".

Concerning Japan's contacts with north Korea, the Minister said: "We intend to dispose of such issues as the grant of Japanese loans to north Korea and entry into Japan by north Korean officials and reporters on a case-by-case basis".

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ahmet H. Ozbudun
Principal Secretary