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UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT FOR THE LIBERATION AND REHABILITATION OF KOREA

CONFIDENTIAL

24 April 1973

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The UN Counter-Espionage Committee has reported that two north Korean spies were captured by south Korean forces about 40 miles from Seoul, while the spies were on their way to meet with the UN staff at UNK.

Dear Shail,

I have received your confidential letter of 20 April and taken note of its contents.

There is an article on the subject of the North/South Korean relations in a recent issue of the World Review.

..... I enclose a copy of it.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Shail Upadhya
Acting Principal Secretary
UNCURK
Seoul, Korea

...the UN's objective is activated by the...
...series that have recently recognized...
...attention to recognize that...
...were ill-timed and that the...



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

CONFIDENTIAL

20 April 1973

Dear Mr. Narasimhan,

The ROK Counter-Espionage Operations Headquarters announced on 18 April that two north Korean infiltrators were killed the previous day by south Korean forces inside the DMZ, about 40 miles north of Seoul, while trying to cross illegally into the southern sector. A third man who was also spotted was still at large.

A search of the area reportedly turned up three submachine guns, 60 rounds of ammunition, two hand grenades, one camera and various other articles. No injuries were reported on the south Korean side. North Korea, yesterday, rejected a proposal by the United Nations Command for a joint investigation of the incident, calling it a "fabrication".

The incident was the second reported attempt at infiltration this year, the first being at Cheju last month, also denied by north Korea. Coupled with the shooting incident in the DMZ on 7 March, the latest incident brings to three the number of violations charged to north Korea by the ROK side in a matter of six weeks.

Considering that the ROK had not reported a single instance of north Korean violations since the signing of the North-South Joint Communiqué on 4 July 1972, the sudden resumption of these charges last month and their frequency, are believed by observers to be politically motivated and a part of a recently launched campaign to sow doubts as to the DPRK's true intention vis-à-vis the North-South talks and unification. The timing of these charges is significant in that it coincides with the DPRK's recent and continuing diplomatic successes, the impending WHO vote on DPRK's admission to that organization, as well as ROK's virtually certain decision to seek another deferment of the Korean debate at the United Nations.

It is believed that the ROK's manoeuvre is motivated by the following considerations:

- (1) to convince countries that have recently recognized or have announced their intention to recognize north Korea that their actions were ill-timed and that far

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

from contributing to a relaxation of tension as intended, have disrupted the political balance in Korea, heightened tensions in the Peninsula and increased north Korea's belligerence towards the South and its contempt for the North-South talks. The ROK hopes thereby to dissuade other countries from conferring recognition upon the DPRK;

(2) to discredit the DPRK's improving international image, by portraying it as a belligerent and hostile country that still cherishes the hope of taking over south Korea by force underneath its recently acquired facade of a peace-loving country that seeks a relaxation of cold-war tensions in Korea and a peaceful unification of the country;

(3) to cast aspersions on the DPRK's sincerity towards the North-South talks and to prepare public opinion at home and abroad for a breakdown in the talks as a prelude to engineering the breakdown and blaming the DPRK for it;

(4) to persuade the WHO that admitting the DPRK to its membership would be to enhance its international prestige, to increase its belligerence and to harden its attitude towards the North-South talks;

(5) to persuade the UN General Assembly, with similar arguments, not to debate the Korean question at its next session or failing that, not to invite the DPRK to participate in the debate.

In its domestic campaign to prepare its people for a breakdown in the North-South talks, the ROK is peddling the theory that north Korea had decided to resort to "military provocations" after concluding that its efforts to undermine the system in the South under the pretext of unification and through the North-South talks had not only failed but to the contrary had enhanced the South's ideological and political strength. At the same time North's "provocations", the theory goes, were designed to make the South accept the proposal for a mutual reduction of military strength recently advanced by DPRK Premier Kim Il Sung.

Thus, the ROK campaign to dampen the hopes of its people, as well as the expectations of the world at large, regarding the North-South talks, appears to be in full swing. It is expected that, in the days to come, the charges of north Korea's "military provocations" will continue to mount, its sincerity regarding the talks increasingly questioned and public opinion adequately prepared to expect a breakdown or an impasse in the talks.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shail U. Upadhyaya
SHAIL UPADHYA

Acting Principal Secretary