

#18

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

O 020730Z APR 82

FM SECDEF AIRCRAFT

TO WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND JUDGE CLARK

IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF/FOR DEPSECDEF CARLUCCI

IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE/FOR SECRETARY HAIG

IMMEDIATE

BT

~~SECRET / SENSITIVE~~

SUBJECT: 14TH ANNUAL US/REPUBLIC OF KOREA SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)

1. WE WERE CORDIALLY RECEIVED IN SEOUL AND NO DIVISIVE ISSUES WERE APPARENT. THE THEME OF THE SOUTH KOREANS WAS TWOFOLD: A NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL AND MORE LENIENT MILITARY CREDITS; AND A DESIRE TO PLAY A GLOBAL ROLE IN SUPPORT OF U.S. SECURITY AND DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVES. IN SHORT, SOUTH KOREA IS OUR SOLID AND WILLING ALLY.
2. OUR MILITARY TO MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXCELLENT. I TIMED MY TRIP TO OBSERVE TEAM SPIRIT, THE LARGEST (160,000 TROOPS) JOINT EXERCISE EVER HELD IN THE FREE WORLD. THE MORALE AND PHYSICAL FITNESS OF OUR TROOPS ARE OUTSTANDING; THE TRAINING IS REALISTIC. PRESIDENT CHUN AND I WITNESSED AN EXTRAORDINARILY REALISTIC LIVE FIRE EXERCISE, FEATURING U.S. AND KOREAN TACTICAL AIRCRAFT, A B-52 FLYOVER, KOREAN ARTILLERY, U.S. HELICOPTERS FIRING PRECISION GUIDED MISSILES, KOREAN TANKS, AND KOREAN AND AMERICAN INFANTRY IN THE ATTACK. THE VOLUME OF HIGH EXPLOSIVE FIRE WAS SUCH THAT ONE COULD FEEL THE MOUNTAIN SHAKE. THE PROFICIENCY OF BOTH US AND KOREAN TROOPS WAS VERY HIGH AND THE EXERCISE WAS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL.

KOREA

20928

13-M-5151

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

SEC DEF CONTR No. X 19111

3. MY FIELD TRIP TO PANMUNJOM AND TO THE DMZ GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED THAT SOUTH KOREA IS A COUNTRY FACED WITH THE CONSTANT THREAT OF INVASION. THE DMZ IS HEAVILY MANNED ON BOTH SIDES BUT THE NORTH KOREANS OUTNUMBER THE U.S. AND ROK FORCES BY A LARGE MARGIN; WE, HOWEVER, HAVE STRONG DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. SEOUL, ONLY 25 MILES SOUTH OF THE DMZ, IS A LARGE, BUSTLING, MODERNIZING CITY. THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE ENERGETIC, TOUGH, HARD-WORKING AND AMBITIOUS. THEY DEVOTE OVER SIX PERCENT OF THEIR GNP TO DEFENSE, AS DO WE, AND THEY DESERVE, IF WE CAN POSSIBLY ACCOMMODATE, REASONABLE TERMS FOR MILITARY CREDIT. THEY HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR OUR SERVICEMEN IN KOREA.

4. THE KOREANS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THEIR DISCIPLINED WORK FORCE IN SAUDI ARABIA, OVER 100,000 STRONG, HAVE PARAMILITARY POTENTIAL AND COULD BE AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY TO WORK WITH OUR RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE AS A STEVEDORE FORCE, OR FOR GUARDING SUPPLY POINTS, OR FOR CONSTRUCTION. THE ISSUE IS SO SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF SAUDI WORRIES OVER SUCH MATTERS THAT I DO NOT FAVOR ANY JOINT DISCUSSIONS AT THIS TIME -- BUT IT DOES ILLUSTRATE KOREAN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE.

5. MORE GENERALLY THE SENIOR KOREAN OFFICIALS WERE OFFERING DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY HELP FAR BEYOND THEIR PENINSULA. AS PRESIDENT CHUN EXPRESSED IT, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO LESSEN SOME OF YOUR BURDENS. HE HASTENED TO ADD THE QUID WAS U.S. ASSISTANCE IN SOFTER FMS CREDITS AND IN NOT OPPOSING KOREAN EXPORTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS A PLEASURE TO DEAL WITH SUCH A PRO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. YOUR LETTER WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. PRESIDENT

CHUN EXTENDED TO YOU HIS PROFOUND THANKS FOR YOUR STEADFASTNESS AND FOR THE DEPTH AND STRENGTH OF AMERICAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT. WHILE THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT HAS NOT ABATED, IT IS MY DISTINCT IMPRESSION WE CAN BENEFIT FROM THE SOUTH KOREAN DESIRE TO PLAY A BROADER ROLE.

6. PRESIDENT CHUN ALSO SPECIFICALLY INVITED YOU TO VISIT KOREA IN 1984. HE SAID HE HOPES YOU WILL RUN FOR RE-ELECTION AND THAT YOUR RECEPTION IN KOREA WOULD BE SO ENORMOUS, WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE CHEERING YOU, THAT IT WOULD HELP YOUR RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

WEINBERGER

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CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)

SECDEF CABLE DISTRIBUTION	
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DEPSEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EXECSEC	<input type="checkbox"/>
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WEINBERGER

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RECEIVED
CARLE BRANCH