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FM SECDEF AIRCRAFT
TO WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT AND JUDGE CLARK IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF/FOR DEPS/SECDEF CARLUCCI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE/FOR SECRETARY HAIG IMMEDIATE
BT

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

SUBJECT: 44TH ANNUAL US/REPUBLIC OF KOREA SECURITY
CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM)

SECDEF CABLE DISTRIBUTION	
SECDEF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEPSEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EXECSEC	<input type="checkbox"/>
EA DSD	<input type="checkbox"/>
C&D	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAF	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILPER	<input type="checkbox"/>
CIVPER	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROTOCOL	<input type="checkbox"/>
PER SEC	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>File</i> GABLE CH	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1. ~~WE WERE CORDIALLY RECEIVED IN SEOUL AND NO DIVISIVE ISSUES~~

~~WERE APPARENT. THE FEELING 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 (400,000 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 AIRBORNE, 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.~~

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 POSITION. 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 ACCOMODATE, 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~~

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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 IMS 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.

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