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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: JUL 01 2019

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FM SECDEF AIRCRAFT (SAM 86971)
TO WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT
INFO STATE FOR SECRETARY SHULTZ
NSC FOR MCFARLANE
DEFENSE DEPT FOR DEPSECDEF TAFT

SUBJECT: MY KOREA STOP (U)

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 01 JUL 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: 8 Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: _____
MDR: 19-M-0862

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1. (S) ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, I COCHAIRLED THE 16TH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM) IN SEOUL. JACK VESSEY AND CINCPAC, BILL CROWE, WERE WITH ME. GEN VESSEY HAD COCHAIRLED THE MILITARY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (MCM) WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED THE SCM. THE SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS OF DISCUSSION CONCERNED: (1) THE UNRELENTING OFFENSIVE BUILDUP OF NORTH KOREA AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHEMICAL WARFARE CAPABILITY COMBINED WITH NORTH KOREA'S DEMONSTRATED PROCLIVITY FOR VIOLENCE. (2) THE LIMITS OF THE US/PRC COOPERATION (THE ROK APPRECIATED OUR STATEMENT THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO HAVE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE PRC) AND THAT WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS WITH OUR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. I REASSURED THE ROK WE WOULD BE PRUDENT IN OUR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO THE PRC, FOR IF ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF MILITARY TECHNOLOGY TO NORTH KOREA TAKES PLACE, OUR TROOPS WOULD ALSO BE PLACED AT RISK. (3) DISCUSSIONS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN WHICH THE ROK PRESSED FOR LARGER SUMS OF FMS AND CONCESSIONAL RATES WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. (4) DEFENSE INDUSTRY COOPERATION. THE ROK STATED THAT IN THEIR OPINION WE HAD A MORAL OBLIGATION TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND TO ENCOURAGE SALES TO THE THIRD COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO KEEP A WARM INDUSTRIAL BASE.

2. (S) I HAD A DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT CHUN. IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE AND THE ROK WERE STILL BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW OF YOUR NOVEMBER VISIT. PRESIDENT CHUN STATED THAT THE ONLY WORD FOR YOUR VISIT WAS "SUCCESSFUL". PRESIDENT CHUN SPOKE AT LENGTH ON THE ROK/US ALLIANCE. HE DEVELOPED THE THEME OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE. I AGREED WITH HIM THAT OUR ALLIANCE WAS VITAL AND THAT MEETINGS SUCH AS THE SCM WERE BOTH SYMBOLIC AND OF REAL VALUE IN MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TERMS. I RECALLED FOR CHUN MY VISIT ON WEDNESDAY TO NIGHTMARE RANGE WHERE I VIEWED A COMBINED ROK/US LIVE FIRE EXERCISE. IT WAS TRULY FINE TO SEE SUCH COOPERATION AND TEAM WORK. THIS LESSON WILL NOT BE LOST ON THE NORTH KOREANS AND SOVIETS.

3. (S) PRESIDENT CHUN ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO YOU AND NANCY HIS GREATEST RESPECTS AND WARMEST REGARDS. HE RECALLED FOR ME A DISCUSSION HE HAD WITH YOU DURING YOUR VISIT TO SEOUL IN WHICH HE MENTIONED HIS PLEASURE IN HIS VISIT WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON IN FEBRUARY OF 81. HE SPOKE IN GLOWING TERMS OF THE BEAUTY OF THE

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WHITE HOUSE. PRESIDENT CHUN INDICATED THAT YOU HAD SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON NOW THAT NANCY HAS MADE SUCH GREAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WHITE HOUSE. HE ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU THAT HE WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO VISIT YOU IN THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1985. HE HAD UNRESERVED PRAISE FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THE FREE WORLD AND OF YOUR DECISIVENESS AS EVIDENCED BY YOUR DECISION ON GRENADA. HE IS QUITE FRANKLY, OPENLY, AND EAGERLY HOPING FOR YOUR REELECTION.

4. (S) THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION OF THE PERIOD '84-88 WHICH PRESIDENT CHUN DESCRIBED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS PERIOD TO PEACE. AS THE ROK PREPARES TO HOST THE 1986 ASIA GAMES AND THE 1988 OLYMPICS IN SEOUL, THEY BELIEVE THAT THE NORTH WILL SPARE NO MEASURE IN AN EFFORT TO DISRUPT AND DISCREDIT STABILITY IN THE ROK. 1988 IS AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA - BOTH PRESIDENTIAL AND IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IF THE NORTH INTENDS TO ACT WITH MILITARY MIGHT, SHE MUST DO SO PRIOR TO 1988 BECAUSE IF OUR PLANS AND KOREAN PLANS ARE CARRIED OUT, THE ROK WILL HAVE REGAINED CLEARLY SUFFICIENT DETERRENT STRENGTH BY 1988. IN THE OPINION OF PRESIDENT CHUN, AFTER THAT THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY WHICH THE NORTH CAN OPEN UP A WIDE ENOUGH MARGIN FOR ATTACK. THE ROK BY THEN WILL HAVE FAR OUTSTRIPPED THE NORTH IN EVERY MEASURE - ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, ETC. PRESIDENT CHUN WAS QUITE SKEPTICAL OF NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACE, RECALLING THAT THEY HAD CALLED FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS ON THE EVE OF THE MURDERS THEY COMMITTED AT RANGOON. WE AGREED TO FOLLOW EVENTS VERY CLOSELY AND TO CONSIDER HAVING THE BIG ANNUAL JOINT TEAM SPIRIT EXERCISE LAST LONGER THAN USUAL IN 1988 AS A FURTHER DETERRENT TO A POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK THAT YEAR.

5. (S) IN CLOSING WHAT WAS A MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING, I INVITED MY COUNTERPART TO THE WASHINGTON AREA IN THE SPRING OF 1985 FOR THE 17TH SCM.

WARM REGARDS, CAP

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