

January 28, 1979
**US Secretary of State Memorandum, Prospects for
Intra-Korean Dialogue**

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Summary:

Cyrus Vance outlines the prospects for a new round of dialogue between North Korea and South Korea, as well as how the United States and China should encourage such a dialogue.

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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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January 28, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: Cyrus Vance *CRV*
SUBJECT: Prospects for Intra-Korean Dialogue

The flurry of recent proposals and responses by South Korea and North Korea indicates that both sides appear to have an interest in renewing some form of contact. The North has dropped a number of its earlier preconditions. However, scheduling of any talks remains impossible as long as the North insists on determining who represents the South at talks and on the inclusion of its fictitious Revolutionary Party for Reunification as a spokesman for the South.

We believe Seoul is serious about dialogue, but meaningful dialogue must be between the responsible authorities on both sides. This is the essential message to convey to Deng:

- Recent statements by both Seoul and Pyongyang have shown some significant movement forward. We believe both the US and the PRC should encourage this.
- However, North Korea's call for a meeting of disparate groups, along with their wish to determine the list of invitees, is unrealistic and actually blocks the genuine dialogue which the US and China would both like to see.

The talks should be between the authorities in Seoul and Pyongyang.

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BY *[Signature]* MARS. DATE 11/26/96