

**June 1, 1979**

**US Department of State Cable, Coordination of Initiative with President Park to Reduce Tensions on the Korean Peninsula**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Warren Christopher reports that Jimmy Carter would like to push for tripartite talks between the U.S., South Korea, and North Korea, and instructs the Ambassador in Seoul to approach the South Korean leadership on this matter.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION(S) MESSAGE(S) LISTING

DATE 08/23/79//235

SITUATION: NODIS OLD  
 SUBJECT CATEGORY: OUT

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

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IMMEDIATE  
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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 5876

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE 0540  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 5194

S E C R E T STATE 139719 T0SEC 040242

NODIS  
 TOKYO EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE  
 E.O. 12065: RDS-3, 5/29/99 (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, US, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF INITIATIVE WITH PRESIDENT PARK  
 TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

1. SECRET, ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO  
 KOREA TO RESULT IN A JOINT US-ROK PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE  
 SUMMIT TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA TO TEST PYONGYANG'S WILLING-  
 NESS TO ADJUST ITS POLICIES AND DEAL WITH PRACTICAL  
 MEASURES FOR THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS IN THE AREA.

3. BOTH WE AND THE ROKG HAVE AGREED THAT THE QUESTION OF A  
 NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE AND FUTURE POLICIES ON THE  
 PENINSULA SHOULD BE PART OF OUR SUMMIT AGENDA, IN ADDITION  
 TO SECURITY RELATIONS, KOREAN ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND HUMAN  
 RIGHTS.

4. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK  
 TO INFORM HIM OF THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH THE PRESIDENT  
 VIEWS HIS FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS, PARTICULARLY AN

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENTS \*\*\*\*\*

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MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

INITIATIVE TO REDUCE TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA. TELL PRESIDENT PARK THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO CONSULT WITH HIM IN ADVANCE TO SEEK TO WORK OUT THE OUTLINES OF A JOINT PROPOSAL WHICH COULD BE ANNOUNCED BY THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

5. ASSURE PARK THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE OBSTACLE TO REDUCING TENSION HAS BEEN IN PYONGYANG, NOT IN SEOUL, AND THAT WE WILL STAND FAST ON OUR COMMITMENT NOT TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH PYONGYANG WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ROK. WE KNOW THAT NORTH KOREA HAS AVOIDED EVEN TAKING THE STEP THAT THEY AGREED TO IN 1972 FOR TALKS BETWEEN RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. OUR MUTUAL ROKUS POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE ARE OF COURSE WILLING TO MEET WITH THE NORTH KOREANS AS LONG AS THE ROK IS A FULL AND EQUAL PARTNER TO ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND BOTH KOREAN PARTIES DESIRE U.S. PARTICIPATION.

6. THE PRESIDENT FEELS THAT THE U.S. AND ROK SHOULD SEIZE THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE FROM PYONGYANG AND TEST WHETHER KIM ILSUNG IS PREPARED TO MAKE THE POLICY ADJUSTMENTS WHICH THE CHANGING INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND NORTH KOREA'S OWN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WOULD SEEM TO DICTATE. ONE WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE FOR THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN SEOUL TO PROPOSE A HIGHLEVEL TRIPARTITE MEETING.

7. YOU SHOULD ASSURE PARK THAT WE WILL REMAIN FIRM IN REBUFFING MANIPULATIVE PROPOSALS FROM NORTH KOREA OR ITS ALLIES WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY EXCLUDE THE ROK OR UNDERCUT ITS POSITION, BUT THAT THE TIME APPEARS RIGHT TO STAND TOGETHER IN TESTING NORTH KOREAN READINESS TO HAVE A REASONABLE DIALOGUE WITH BOTH OF US.

8. YOU MAY TELL PARK THAT THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SECURITY ISSUE AND ROK'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE DIPLOMATIC RISKS IN DEALING WITH NORTH KOREA. THE SUMMIT IN SEOUL WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO PRESIDENTS TO ESTABLISH A PERSONAL DIALOGUE AND DISCUSS THE SECURITY ISSUES OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. CHRISTOPHER

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