

March 10, 1980

**The North-South Dialogue and Potential Codel Visit
to North Korea**

Citation:

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Summary:

Assistant Secretary Holbrooke informs the American Embassy in Seoul that Ambassador Kim Yong-sik and the ROK are extremely upset by Congressman Solarz's intent to go to Pyongyang. He emphasizes that Solarz is aware of US policy toward North Korea and would not carry a message from the US during his visit.

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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*****SECRET*****

DATE 03/10/80

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 00

WHSR COMMENT:

ZB STEBBINS DEN VP
EDB GREGG, SULL

MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

NO MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE
DE RUEHC #9995/01 060032Z
O P 060222Z MAR 80 ZPFB
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0303

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 3241
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2828
WHITE HOUSE 3846
BT

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 059995/01

NODIS
FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE
E.O. 12065: RDS-1,3 3/5/80 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD C.)

TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ), PEPR, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: (S) THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND POTENTIAL CODEL
VISIT TO NORTH KOREA

REF: STATE 59971

1: (S- ENTIRE TEXT).

2: DURING ROK AMBASSADOR KIM'S CALL ON ME MARCH 4,
I INFORMED HIM THAT CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ HAD INFORMED US
EARLIER IN THE DAY THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT FINALLY MADE
A DECISION, IT WAS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT HE WOULD FOLLOW
THROUGH THIS SPRING ON HIS PROJECTED VISIT TO NORTH
KOREA. THE TIMING WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL
CALENDAR.

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

3. I TOLD KIM THAT SOLARZ WAS THINKING OF VISITING TOKYO, BEIJING, PYONGYANG, AND SEOUL IN THAT ORDER. I ALSO ASSURED KIM THAT IF SOLARZ WENT, HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CARRYING ANY MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. WE WERE NOT ENCOURAGING HIS TRAVEL, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO PREVENT IT. WE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO SEE THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD

U.S. POLICY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, AND SOLARZ HAD ALREADY COMMITTED HIMSELF NOT TO UNDERCUT THE USG POSITION THAT WE WOULD MEET WITH NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ONLY IF SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES WERE PRESENT ON A BASIS OF EQUALITY.

4. I HAVE NEVER SEEN KIM REACT MORE STRONGLY IN ANY OF OUR DISCUSSIONS OVER THREE YEARS. USUALLY CALM AND DELIBERATE, HE WAS CLEARLY SHAKEN OVER THE NEWS THAT SOLARZ WOULD GO TO PYONGYANG.

5. KIM



7. I TOLD KIM THAT, WHILE I WOULD NOT ARGUE THAT A CODEL VISIT TO PYONGYANG AT THIS TIME WAS A HELPFUL GESTURE, NEVERTHELESS I FELT HE WAS EXAGGERATING THE

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED):

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES.

[REDACTED]
IN TWO SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS BOB
RICH HAS TRIED TO PERSUADE AMBASSADOR KIM AND HIS
COLLEAGUES THAT TO PLAY UP A CODEL VISIT TO PYONGYANG
AS A MAJOR PROBLEM WILL SIMPLY CREATE A MUCH LARGER
ISSUE THAN OTHERWISE WOULD EXIST, AND THAT IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT THE ROKG BE WILLING TO GIVE ANY SUCH
CODEL EQUAL TREATMENT IN SEOUL. I RECOMMENDED TO KIM
THAT IF SOLARZ GOES HE BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT,
FOREIGN MINISTER PARK, AND THE LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES.

8. KIM SAID

9. COMMENT: WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE A PROBLEM IN PERSUADING
THE ROKG NOT TO OVERPLAY THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF A
YOU SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT AT THAT END TO ASSURE
THAT SOLARZ IS RECEIVED IN A CIVIL AND POSITIVE FASHION.
WE SIMPLY DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN PERSUADE HIM TO FOREGO
THE TRIP.

10. WHEN ASKED HIS EVALUATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF
THE DIALOGUE WITH NORTH KOREA, KIM WAS MODESTLY
OPTIMISTIC. HE SAID.

P&N: 048139

TOR: 066/03126Z

DTG: 060222Z MAR 80

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MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

NO MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

DE RUEHC 059995/02 0600324

O P 060222Z MAR 80 ZFFG

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0304

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 3242

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2829

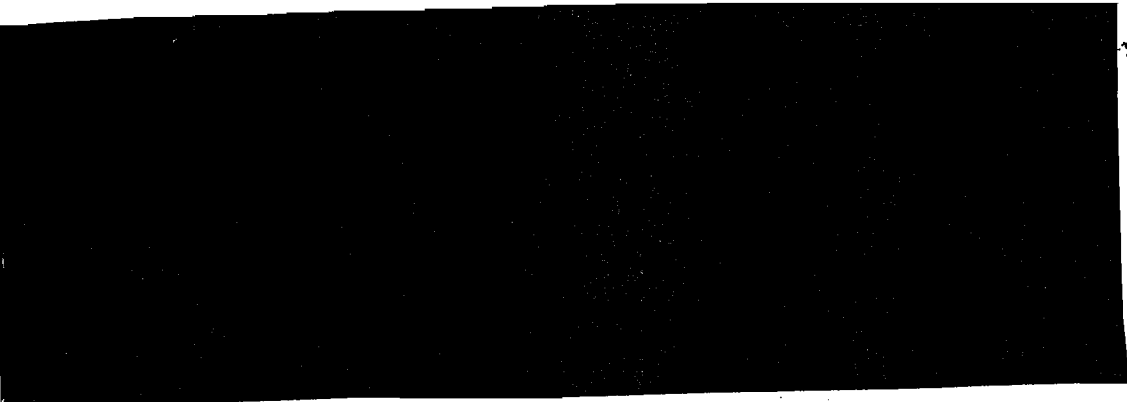
WHITE HOUSE 3847

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FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE



12. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH PRC AMBASSADOR CHAI DEVOTED TO OTHER MATTERS, I INFORMED HIM THAT SOLARZ HAD INDICATED HIS INTENTIONS OF TRAVELING TO PYONGYANG THIS SPRING, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD BE CARRYING NO MESSAGES ON BEHALF OF THE USG. VANCE)

*****S E C R E T*****