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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SECRET

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford  
Chung Il-Kwon, Speaker of the National  
Assembly of the Republic of Korea  
Hahm Pyong-choon, ROK Ambassador to U. S.  
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy  
Assistant to the President for National  
Security Affairs

DATE & TIME:

Thursday - May 8, 1975  
10:45 a. m.

PLACE:

The Oval Office  
The White House

The President: I understand you have been meeting with a number of  
Congressmen on the Hill.

[The press is admitted for photographs.]

How many members of the Assembly are here?

Chung: Six.

Hahm: You had four Prime Ministers here yesterday.

President: Three yesterday and one today.

[The press is ushered out.]

Chung: I met with President Park before my departure. He asked me  
to convey his special wishes to you.

The President: Please give him my best. I appreciated his welcome  
and that of the Korean people when I visited last November. I appreciated  
it and the opportunity to discuss with him privately about our special  
relationship.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
State Dept. Guidelines  
By ll, NARA, Date 5/14/94  
State Dept. 5/14/94

~~TOP SECRET~~ = XGOS (A)  
CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SECRET

Chung: We appreciate your reaffirmation of the ties with Korea.

The President: I wanted it said publicly as well as privately. We intend to maintain close ties and live up to our obligations. We have no intention of changing our commitment to your strength and I hope we can proceed as soon as possible in helping your modernization. Congress isn't always cooperative, but we will do our best within those restraints.

Chung: It raises the morale of the Korean people, as did your visit. I will transfer your message to President Park and the Korean people.

President: I hope President Park is well.

Chung: He is. Frankly, we hope you stay as President forever.

The President: That is not quite possible. But my Administration feels strongly about maintaining a strong presence in Asia, and a vital part of that is our association with Korea.

Hahn: Even the opposition leaders are giving the message that we don't want the American troops withdrawn.

The President: We have a problem with Congress. I hope you have been able to convey a unified message.

Hahn: We have unity on the security issue. They said to leave the domestic issues to us. That is our problem.

Chung: Please convey my regards to Mrs. Ford.

[The conversation ended.]

*Logan  
Pres*  
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~ GDS

MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER OF  
THE SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
CHUNG IL-KWON

Thursday, May 8, 1975  
10:45 a.m. (10 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger *B*

I. PURPOSE

To reassure South Korea of the solidity of our security commitment in the wake of Indochina.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: Speaker Chung is visiting Washington, heading a delegation of six National Assemblymen, to ascertain first-hand the firmness of the U.S. security commitment to South Korea. While here, he will also see Secretary Kissinger, Speaker Albert, and Senators Hugh Scott and John Sparkman. After Washington, he is continuing on to France, Germany, and Japan.

The fall of Indochina has had a serious impact on South Korea. Even before that development, South Korea had been troubled in the past year or so by concerns over the dependability of our security commitment. The impact of Indochina events on South Korea was aggravated when North Korean Premier Kim Il-sung promptly left for Peking, his first visit there since 1961, as if to concert new pressures against the South.

In the wake of Indochina, we have given Seoul several strong reassurances on our security commitment. You specifically reaffirmed that commitment in your State-of-the-World address.

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
State Dept. Guidelines, State Review 2/9/04  
By *[initials]*, NARA, Date 5/14/04

~~SECRET~~ GDS

Speaker Chung is one of the leading political figures in South Korea. He was Prime Minister from 1964 to 1970, Ambassador to the U.S. from 1961 to 1963, and Army Chief of Staff during the Korean War. He does not have independent political aspirations, and therefore is not viewed by President Park as a political competitor even though he is sometimes mentioned as a possible successor to Park.

- B. Participants: Speaker Chung and Ambassador to the U.S. Hahn Pyong-choon. On the U.S. side, General Scowcroft. (No interpreter is needed. Chung speaks excellent English.)
- C. Press Arrangements: The call will be announced routinely, and the press will be briefed following the meeting. There will be a photo opportunity.

### III. TALKING POINTS

1. I want to assure you that Indochina has in no way weakened the U.S. security treaty commitment to the Republic of Korea, just as it has not weakened U.S. commitments to America's other allies. I have publicly and specifically reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to the Republic of Korea, and others have reiterated that message.
2. This Administration plans no basic change in the lines of its foreign policy. I consider that the basic thrust of American foreign policy is sound and therefore plan that it will remain unaltered.
3. In Asia and the Pacific, the U.S. intends to continue to play a vital stabilizing role. We will maintain armed forces in the region and extend levels of military and economic assistance adequate to make that role effective.
4. The U.S. has no plans to alter its force deployments in the Republic of Korea. We are fully sensitive to the risk that any change in U.S. force deployments there could easily be misinterpreted by North Korea.
5. The U.S. will stand by its pledge to help complete your government's modernization plan for your armed forces as quickly as practicable.

✓ P/Chang Il 'Kwan  
(S. Korea speaker of Natl Assn)

F May 28

P I understand you have been visiting a #  
of Congrac Hill  
Pass in

How many members of assn are there

C 6.

Admin you had 4 PM's yesterday

P 3 yesterday + 1 today  
Present.

C I met as Park before my departure. He  
asked me to convey his special wishes.

P Please give him my best. I appreciate  
his welcome + that of R people last year.  
I appreciated it + spent to disassemble him privately  
on special relationship.

C We appreciate a reaffirmation of ties  
w/Korea

P I presented it said publicly as well as privately.  
We intend to make closer ties + obligations  
We have no intention of changing our  
strength intent + hope we can proceed  
ASA in Washington. I've got  
everybody, but we will do our best  
w/in these restrict

C It raises a number of R people, as did  
you visit. I will transfer your message  
to Park + people

P Hope Park is well

C He is. Frankly, we hope you stay  
as long as possible.

P That not quite possible. But my admin

feels strongly about a strong presence in Asia  
& a vital part of that is our association w/ Korea

N  $\rightarrow$  some opposition leaders already a  
strong ~~that~~ we don't want troops w/ them

P we have a part w/ them. I hope you have  
something to say a unified way

A We have unity on security issues. They  
could have a hostile view to us. That  
is our prob

Q Reply to Mrs F