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STATE 031379

EXDIS - CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 AND 2, 2/4/01 (HAIG, A. M.)

TAGS: OVIP (CHUN DOO HWAN), PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROK PRESIDENT CHUN'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.


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3. AFTER WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHUN TO THE DEPARTMENT, THE
SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WISHED TO ENSURE THAT ANY OF CHUN'S CONCERNS WHICH WERE NOT ADEQUATELY COVERED IN THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE FULLY EXPLORED. CHUN REITERATED HIS PARTICULAR APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. COMBAT FORCES FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

4.
ECO\nc\np\n\nPROBLEMS -- NOTING THAT A SEPARATE MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS IN PROGRESS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC MATTERS, PRESIDENT CHUN STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE USA COULD GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO KOREA OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HERETOFORE, THE ROK HAD BEEN TREATED THE SAME AS JAPAN AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN RELATION TO TRADE ISSUES. SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS NECESSARY, CHUN NOTED, FOR POLITICAL STABILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

5.
IN THIS CONNECTION PRESIDENT CHUN SUGGESTED THAT JAPAN OUGHT TO BEAR A GREATER SHARE OF THE BURDEN OF MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF THE REGION. THE U.S. AND THE ROK TOGETHER FORMED A BULWARK FOR THE DEFENSE OF JAPAN AND GREATER JAPANESE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND BURDEN SHARING WAS NEEDED (NOTE, IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHIN INDICATED THAT THE ROK WAS HOPING FOR UP TO ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN SOFT LOANS FROM JAPAN).

6.
THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS OF KOREA'S FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AND SAID HE REALIZED THAT THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME FOR THE KOREAN ECONOMY. WE TOO HAVE OCCASIONALLY HAD PROBLEMS WITH OUR JAPANESE FRIENDS IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. NOTING THAT THE U.S. DID NOT WISH TO BE A PARTY TO THE TACTIC OF RESORTING TO TRADE BARRIERS, THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT WE NEED A SOMEWHAT MORE VIGOROUS ECONOMIC DIALOGUE WITH OUR FRIENDS IN TOKYO IN ORDER TO AVOID PROBLEMS. WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH KOREA TO BE HELPFUL IN KOREA'S PRESENT UNUSUAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DIALOGUE WITH JAPAN WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO BE HELPFUL.

7.
THE SECRETARY ASSURED PRESIDENT CHUN THAT KOREA...
COULD RELY UPON THE UNITED STATES AS A SOURCE OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY FOR KOREA'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, AND HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR KOREA'S WISE ADHERENCE TO A NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

8. NOTING CHUN'S REFERENCE TO THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF POLITICS, ECONOMICS, SOCIAL STABILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY, THE SECRETARY SAID HE REALIZED THAT AS A RESULT OF VIETNAM, THE WATERGATE EPISODE AND SOME U.S. POLICIES IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN SOME CONCERN AMONG OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF U.S. SECURITY OBLIGATIONS. IT WAS HIS STRONG BELIEF THAT DIFFICULTIES IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS MULTIPLY WHEN THE CONFIDENCE THAT NATIONS HAVE IN THEIR BASIC SECURITY BECOMES WEAKENED. A FIRST PRIORITY FOR AMERICA IS TO REESTABLISH CONFIDENCE IN OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS. THESE DOUBTS AMONG AMERICA'S FRIENDS, WHETHER IN TOKYO, EUROPE, OR ELSEWHERE, HAVE HAD THEIR PART IN FUELING DEFENSIVE AND PROTECTIONIST ATTITUDES.

9. THE U.S. HAS ALREADY BEGUN, THE SECRETARY SAID, A MORE INTENSIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF RECIPROCITY AND STRENGTH MORE THAN ON THE IDEAS WHICH IN THE RECENT PAST HAVE BEEN EMBODIED IN THE CONCEPT OF DETENTE. THE WORLD HAS BEEN FACED WITH INCREASING SOVIET INTERVENTIONS EITHER DIRECTLY OR BY PROXY (E.G. CUBA), IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL AMERICA. THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON IS TO PROJECT A NEW DIRECTION IN U.S. POLICY WHICH WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT WITH COMPLACENCY SUCH SOVIET INTERVENTIONISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
11. Recalling with warmth his many discussions in earlier years with President Park, especially during the difficult days of mutual involvement in Vietnam, the Secretary noted that in Vietnam Korea had proved again to be a true and lasting friend of the USA. It will be that relationship of lasting friendship which will dominate the future.

14. North Korea -- noting with appreciation the assurances that had already been received that the U.S. would not deal officially with North Korea without participation of the ROK, President Chun said that
NEVERTHELESS UNOFFICIAL VISITS TO NORTH KOREA BY AMERICAN SCHOLARS AND OTHERS HAVE SERVED TO GIVE NORTH KOREA THE IMPRESSION THAT IT COULD DEAL WITH THE USA OVER THE HEADS OF THE ROK AND CAN IGNORE THE NECESSITY FOR DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH. THEREFORE, IT WAS HIS HOPE THAT BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL AMERICAN CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA COULD BE RESTRAINED IN ORDER TO PREVENT NORTH KOREAN MISUNDERSTANDING.

15. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS ARE OFTEN
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DIFFICULT FOR THE USG AS WELL AS THE ROKG, THE SECRETARY INFORMED CHUN THAT THE USG COULD NOT CONTROL PRIVATE CITIZENS OR EVEN AMERICAN LEGISLATORS FROM INDULGING IN FOREIGN FORAYS. HOWEVER, RECENT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (E.G. IN TEHRAN) HAS LEFT A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING IN THE MINDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND, THEREFORE, PERHAPS FEWER PEOPLE WILL BE READY TO INDULGE IN SUCH PERSONAL DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY WITH HOSTILE REGIMES. THE USG WILL FROWN ON SUCH ACTIVITY, BUT WILL NOT AND CANNOT ATTEMPT TO BLOCK IT.

16. CHUN COMMENTED THAT HE HOPEO KOREA'S OTHER ALLIES AND FRIENDS WOULD ALSO BE SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE CREATED BY CERTAIN KINDS OF CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA. IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAD BEEN SOME TENSION BETWEEN THE ROK AND JAPAN LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA OF SOME LOD LEGISLATORS FROM TOKYO AND THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE UPON THEIR RETURN TO JAPAN. THIS HAD GIVEN OBVIOUS ENCOURAGEMENT TO NORTH KOREA WHICH IN THE SAME PERIOD WAS SENDING NORTH KOREAN ARMED INFRINGEMENTS INTO SOUTH KOREA PARTIALLY EQUIPPED WITH JAPANESE-MADE EQUIPMENT.

17. THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT CHUN HAD ALREADY SHOWN THAT HE WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE SITUATION THROUGH HIS RECENT INVITATION TO KIM IL SUNG. THIS INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATED SOUTH KOREA'S LEADERSHIP AND SERVED EFFECTIVELY TO ANSWER THE CRITICS.

18. IN CLOSING, THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO
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PRESIDENT CHUN FOR KOREA'S SIGNIFICANT GIFT TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MUSEUM OF EASTERN ART, A CONTRIBUTION WHICH WAS PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING DAY AT THE FREER GALLERY.

19. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT CHUN AND THE SECRETARY WERE AS FOLLOWS.
KOREAN SIDE: FOREIGN MINISTER LHO SHINYONG (M-R: NO SIN-YONG), AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK (M-R: KIM YONG-SIK), BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY GENERAL DR. KIM KYUNG-WON (M-R: KIM KYONG-WON), ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER GONG RO-MYUNG (M-R: KONG NO-MYUNG), AND BLUE HOUSE PROTOCOL CHIEF KIM PYUNG-HOON (M-R: KIM PYONG-HUN), AMERICAN SIDE: UNDER SECRETARY STOESSEL, UNDEP SECRETARY BUCKLEY, AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEEN, AMBASSADOR HOLDRIGE, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EA) ARMACOST, AND KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR RICH. HAIG.