

015

Subject
S. Korea
Pm's Visit
March 82

RESTRICTED

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RR SEOUL
GRS 235
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 111530Z MAY 82
TO ROUTINE SEOUL
TELEGRAM NUMBER 81 OF 11 MAY
MY IPT

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T107AA/82

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO
PRESIDENT CHUN.

BEGINS: AS YOU MAY KNOW, I SHALL BE VISITING JAPAN, CHINA AND
HONG KONG IN SEPTEMBER. YOUR EMBASSY IN LONDON HAVE CONVEYED
YOUR GOVERNMENT'S KIND SUGGESTION THAT I SHOULD AT THE SAME
TIME VISIT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. I WOULD HAVE VERY MUCH LIKED
TO DO SO AND HAVE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY HOW THIS MIGHT BE
FITTED IN. BUT I AM AFRAID THAT PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES SIMPLY
PREVENT THE INCLUSION OF A VISIT TO KOREA DURING THE SHORT
TIME I HAVE AVAILABLE FOR MY FAR EAST TOUR. I VERY MUCH REGRET
THEREFORE THAT I SHALL BE UNABLE ON THIS OCCASION TO VISIT
YOUR COUNTRY, WHOSE REMARKABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND STEADFAST-
NESS IN FACING THE MILITARY THREAT FROM THE NORTH I HAVE SO
LONG ADMIRÉD.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED
KINGDOM ARE WELL-DEVELOPED AND THE CENTENARY OF THEIR
ESTABLISHMENT NEXT YEAR WILL BE A HAPPY OCCASION. I SHOULD BE
DELIGHTED THEREFORE IF YOU WERE ABLE TO VISIT BRITAIN DURING
1983 AS A GUEST OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. IF YOU FEEL ABLE
TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION IN PRINCIPLE, I SUGGEST THAT OUR
OFFICIALS SHOULD CONSIDER A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME FOR THE
VISIT TO TAKE PLACE. I HOPE THAT WE MAY THUS BE ABLE TO MEET
AND FURTHER ENHANCE THE SOLID FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ENDS.

PYM

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