

OPS

cc Marks + Subject
Disaster: Attack on
Korean Airlines 9/83

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

4, PALACE GATE,
LONDON, W8 5NF

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. 125/83

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
London

5th September 1983

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you be so kind as to convey to The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the following telegraphic message from His Excellency, Chun Doo Hwan, President of the Republic of Korea:

"

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I AM MOST GRIEVED TO LEARN THAT A BRITISH SUBJECT, MR IAN POWRIE, WAS AMONG THE 269 INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS WHO WERE KILLED IN THE TRAGIC INCIDENT OF A KOREAN JETLINER WHICH WAS SHOT DOWN BY SOVIET FIGHTERS OFF SAKHALIN ON 1 SEPTEMBER.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, I WISH TO EXTEND TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES.

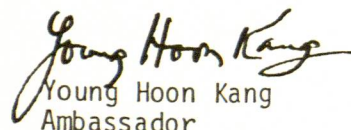
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY THE SOVIET UNION, USING LETHAL MISSILES, AGAINST AN UNARMED COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT, IS AN INEXCUSABLE ACT OF CRIME AGAINST INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. I RECEIVED YOUR KIND LETTER OF SYMPATHY AND NOTED WITH GRATITUDE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS LENT ITS MORAL SUPPORT TO THE WORLD-WIDE CONDEMNATION OF THIS ATROCITY.

I HOPE THAT EFFECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PREVENT ITS RECURRENCE.

ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

CHUN DOO HWAN
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA."

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.


Young Hoon Kang
Ambassador