

OFFICE OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

November 19, 1979

Excellency,

It was with heartfelt gratitude that I received your kind message of condolences upon the tragic passing of His Excellency President Park Chung Hee, and your condolences envoy to the state funeral for the late President.

The sudden demise of the President was indeed shocking to the people of Korea, since their nation building depended so much on his dynamic leadership and guidance. We are deeply grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in sharing our sorrow at this hour of bereavement.

I wish to take this opportunity to assure you that the Government and people of the Republic of Korea will continue to work together with your Government and people to further develop the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

With my very best wishes for your personal well-being and the lasting prosperity of your nation in the years ahead, I remain

Yours sincerely,



Choi Kyu Hah
Acting President

The Right Honourable
Margaret Hilda Thatcher, M. P.
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

12 December 1979

Dear Michael,

*Rs
RML*

President Choi Kyu Hah of South Korea

In late October, the Prime Minister sent a telegram of condolence, following the assassination of President Park, to acting-President Choi.

I attach President Choi's reply, which has been sent to Lord Carrington by the Korean Ambassador. We have acknowledged receipt. There is no need for a formal reply from the Prime Minister.

In my letter of 7 December, we recommended that the Prime Minister should send a message of congratulations to President Choi. HM Ambassador at Seoul has now recommended that he should hold the congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister to President Choi until after the inauguration ceremony (which will take place on 21 December). If you agree, I should be grateful if you could substitute the word "inauguration" for "election" in the first line of the draft letter from the Prime Minister.

*yours
R M J Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London S.W.1

7 December 1979

(1)

Dear Michael, *Prime Minister*
Yes not *Apex text?*

Print - 12/11

Congratulatory Letter from the Prime Minister
to President Choi Kyu Hah of South Korea

Mr Choi Kyu Hah, the former Prime Minister, and Acting President since the death of President Park, was elected President of the Republic of Korea on 5 December.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary recommends that the Prime Minister should send a congratulatory letter to the new President on this occasion. Similar messages were sent to the late President Park on his re-election by the Prime Minister of the day in 1963, 1967, 1971, and in 1978. Mr Choi, in his capacity as Acting President, has just sent a personal letter to the Prime Minister (to thank her for her expression of condolences on the death of President Park). The Koreans would obviously appreciate a personal message at a difficult time for them, when they are embarking on a process of liberalisation of their constitution. They and the Americans have sought our understanding and support for what they are trying to do.

// I enclose a draft letter and a draft telegram to Seoul.

yours ever
Rodric Lyne

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
No 10 Downing Street

DSF-11 (Revised)

LETTER

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: His Excellency
President Choi Kyu Hah
The Blue House
SEOUL
The Republic of Korea

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Inauguration

On the occasion of Your Excellency's ~~election~~ as President of the Republic of Korea, I send you my congratulations and best wishes for the future.

I wish you well in your determination to pursue constitutional advance for the benefit and well-being of your countrymen, and I look forward with confidence to the continued expansion of the friendly relations between our two countries.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

File No.

Department

Drafted by
(Block Capitals) ... FED

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OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

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Precedence IMMEDIATE
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[TEXT]

1. Please deliver the following message from the Prime Minister to President Choi Kyu Hah:

Begins:

On the occasion of Your Excellency's ^{inauguration} ~~election~~ as President of the Republic of Korea, I send you my congratulations and best wishes for the future.

I wish you well in your determination to pursue constitutional advance for the benefit and well-being of your countrymen, and I look forward with confidence to the continued expansion of the friendly relations between our two countries.

Ends.

2. Signed original follows by bag.