

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister



Yes - very much to us.

Agree 'A'?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Duty desk
20/11/80.*

20 November 1980

Dear Michael,

Korea: Kim Dae Jung

The Political Committee of the Nine have been considering what further action might be taken by the Nine over the case of Kim Dae Jung, the Opposition leader who has been sentenced to death in Korea for his alleged part in the Kwangju uprising last May and other activities deemed subversive (he is alleged in particular to have had contacts with North Korea). His appeal against his death sentence will shortly be considered by the Supreme Court. The general consensus is that, if, as is likely, the sentence is upheld by the Supreme Court the Presidency representative should make an immediate appeal for clemency to President Chun, who will take the final decision.

Partly because of Herr Genscher's strong personal interest, the Germans have taken the lead in the discussions among the Nine. They wish the final joint representations to be made in the name of Heads of State and Government and are also pressing for joint sanctions (eg the recall of Ambassadors and the discouragement of high level visits to or from Korea) to be considered should Kim be executed.

Although the timetable is uncertain there is a possibility that the Supreme Court proceedings may be concluded early next month. The matter may therefore be raised again by Genscher at the Ministerial meeting of the Nine on 24 - 25 November. We intend to resist the idea of sanctions which would damage our commercial interests in Korea without achieving any useful purpose. But in view of the strength of German feelings, Lord Carrington feels that it would be wrong to stand out against a demarche in the name of Heads of State and Government if there is general support for it. It would be helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible whether the Prime Minister would be prepared to be associated with such a demarche. The demarche would be made discreetly by the Presidency representative in Seoul, though the fact that it had been made would subsequently be made public. We do not favour a statement by the European Council; conspicuous public pressure is more likely to harden President Chun's attitude than to save Kim's life.

Yes A.

yours etc

Roderic Lyne

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

(R M J Lyne)
Private Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL

S. Korea

File

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 November 1980

Korea: Kim Dae Jung

The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 20 November about action by the Presidency of the Community in the event that the death sentence on Kim Dae Jung is upheld by the Korean Supreme Court. As I have told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister is content that a demarche should be made in the name of the Heads of State and Government of the Nine.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Roderic Lyne, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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