

**SUBJECT**

*S. Korea  
cc Master  
Ops  
P.M. Tour Sept 82  
China*

RESTRICTED

4713 - 1

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. T 107 AA/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 ADMIRERD.

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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file SIC  
South Korea  
copied to Mr. Young  
Chun Sent to

11 May 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FAR EAST

Thank you for your letter of 10 May.

The Prime Minister agrees that the suggested message to the President of Korea should be despatched.

I am copying this letter to John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

A J COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Copied to PM's Tours Sept 1980  
China



Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

10 May 1982

Prime Minister

Content of this message  
should be despatched:

Dear John,

Yes, not

A.J.C. 10/5

Prime Minister's Visit to the Far East

Thank you for your letter of 24 April. I now enclose, as requested, a draft of a message for the Prime Minister to send to the President of the Republic of Korea, regretting that she will be unable to visit Korea this year and inviting him to visit Britain in 1983.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Rhodes in the Department of Trade.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minute~~/letter/teleletter/despatch/note  
XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

His Excellency  
Mr Chun Doo Hwan  
President of the Republic of Korea

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

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 steadfastness in facing the military threat from the North I have so long admired.

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

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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.

SR



Copy filed on *14/7/82* *Minister*  
China Sent to

*South Korea*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April, 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE FAR EAST

I regret that it has not been possible to reply before now to your two letters of 5 April. The Prime Minister has now seen these as well as the minute of 30 March from the Secretary of State for Trade.

Mrs Thatcher is content to visit Japan before China and is also content with the outline programme. As far as China is concerned, she does not wish to take up your alternative suggestion of visiting a more scenic area than the neighbourhood of Peking since this would mean cutting out Shanghai where, as you know, she may wish to launch a ship.

The Prime Minister has considered the arguments relating to the possible inclusion of Korea in her Far Eastern visit but has decided that she does not wish to visit Korea on this occasion. I think that she would be prepared to send to President Chun a message of the kind you propose and would be grateful if you would let me have a draft.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

John Holmes, Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office