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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 October, 1982

*Dear John,*

Call on Prime Minister by Korean Foreign Minister, Mr Lee Bum Suk

The Prime Minister has agreed to receive Mr Lee Bum Suk, the Korean Foreign Minister, for fifteen minutes at 10.00 on 4 October. Mr Lee, who will have arrived the previous afternoon, is visiting Britain for two working days on his way back to Seoul from New York.

The Koreans were anxious for a call on the Prime Minister by Mr Lee when the visit was first mooted in July. We told them at the time that the Party Conference made this most unlikely and they did not press the point. They are now extremely pleased that a call can after all be fitted in. They were very disappointed that the Prime Minister was unable to stop even briefly in Seoul during her recent tour of the Far East, and their wish for Mr Lee to see her during this visit was intended to offset this in the eyes of domestic and regional opinion.

Given the brevity of the call, and as the Koreans will have little time to prepare for it, Mr Lee is likely to confine himself to mentioning President Chun's proposed visit to Britain next year and to enquiring generally about the Prime Minister's tour. The attached briefing covers these aspects together with trade issues the Prime Minister may wish to take up.

Mr Lee will be accompanied by the Korean Ambassador, Dr Kang Young Hoon and Mr Jhung Kyung Yil, Director General of the European Affairs Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (In Korean usage surnames come first). Mr Giffard will attend from the FCO, as we agreed.

*Yours ever*

*J E Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR LEE BUM SUK,  
10 A.M., 4 OCTOBER 1982

## POINTS TO MAKE

1. Pleased that Mr Lee's first visit to Western Europe as Minister should be to Britain.
2. Regret unable to include Korea in recent Far East tour.
3. Tour successful. Japanese leaders receptive to explanation of problems of trade imbalance. In China laid basis of talks on future of Hong Kong.
4. Korea's economic progress and steadfastness in face of Communist threat exemplary. Korea has our full support.
5. Hope President Chun can visit Britain next year as centrepiece of centenary celebrations.
6. Very pleased that GEC successful in bidding for extension of Seoul Metro. Hope Korean experience of British expertise in this field will lead to similar success for a British company in Pusan Metro.
7. Understand Korea's wish to diversify from US for defence supplies. Some equipment in which Koreans interested well-proven in Falklands campaign.
8. Strong Government backing for Shorts Skyvan. Hope Koreans can make early decision.





## ESSENTIAL FACTS

General

1. In her message at Annex A Prime Minister invited President Chun to visit Britain next year. The Koreans suggested that the Foreign Minister make a preparatory visit and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary invited him as a guest of Government. President Chun's reply (Annex B) did not give a clear indication of when he might be able to visit and Mr Lee may have further news. He is also likely to enquire about the Prime Minister's tour of the Far East.
2. During his visit Mr Lee will be calling on Mr Pym, Lord Cockfield, and the Duke of Kent. At the Korean Ambassador's dinner on 4 October he will also meet Mr Nott, Mr Lamont and Lord Belstead.
3. A personality note on Mr Lee is at Annex C.

Political

4. In spite of setbacks President Chun's government is stable and the country's economy has survived the shocks of world recession. Internally his rule remains authoritarian in spite of cosmetic changes. Human rights performance still causes concern among some sectors of British public opinion. Korean foreign policy dominated by threat from North Korea. South Koreans fear both military invasion and diplomatic isolation. We have supported publicly President Chun's proposals for resumption of dialogue with North and help diplomatically where we can. Britain provides an Honour Guard of some 30 men for the UN Command in Korea.

Commercial

5. GEC recently won major share of £185 million contract for extension of Seoul Metro. GEC and Hawker Siddeley separately pursuing contract for Metro for Pusan in south east of country. Other civil projects of interest to British firms are modernising rail link between Seoul and Pusan, steel mill and nuclear power plants.





6. Korea has indicated desire to lessen dependence on United States for defence equipment. Prospects for British suppliers include sale of Blow Pipe, Rapier and other missiles and Hawk aircraft. Korean Army have been considering purchase of Shorts Skyvan transport aircraft and Lord Carrington sent a message in support in March (Annex D): however following President Chun's recent visit to Canada, Canadian Buffalo aircraft now a contender, and Koreans may be postponing decision for one or two years. Failure to win this order could have serious consequences for Shorts.



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

FEJ 026/1	
13 MAY 1982	
RECEIVED	NO. 50
DATE	TIME
INITIALS	SIGNATURE

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 STEADFASTNESS IN FACING THE MILITARY THREAT FROM THE NORTH I HAVE SO LONG ADMIRER.

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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17TH MAY 1982

"THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARGARET THATCHER,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND"

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

IT WAS WITH GRATITUDE THAT I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE OF  
13 MAY 1982, IN WHICH YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO INVITE  
ME TO VISIT YOUR GREAT COUNTRY. I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT  
THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL GREATLY  
CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE FRIENDLY AND  
COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

IT IS GRATIFYING THAT, SINCE OUR TWO COUNTRIES  
ESTABLISHED FORMAL RELATIONS IN 1883, OUR RELATIONS HAVE  
CONTINUED TO GROW IN SCOPE AND DEPTH. 1983 WILL BE A  
HISTORIC LANDMARK AS THE CENTENARY OF OUR RELATIONS.  
I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE LONG-STANDING TRADITIONAL  
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS WILL FURTHER INCREASE  
THROUGH OUR UNSPARING EFFORTS.

WITH MY WARM PERSONAL REGARDS AND BEST WISHES, I REMAIN,  
SINCERELY,

CHUN DOO HWAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA"



LEE BUM SUK

Minister of Foreign Affairs (June 1982)

Born 1922 in Pyongyang. Graduate of Posung College, the forerunner of Korea University, (1936) and Maryland (1961) and George Washington (1963) Universities. Served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, becoming head of protocol (1966) and Ambassador to Tunisia (1970). Vice President of the Korean National Red Cross and senior delegate to the South-North Red Cross talks (1972-76). Ambassador to India (1976) until his appointment as Minister of National Unification in September 1980. Secretary-General in President's office January-June 1982.

Relaxed and forthcoming with impeccable English.



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GRS 450  
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 FM FCO 091000Z MAR 82  
 TO IMMEDIATE SEOUL  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 44 OF 9 MARCH 1982  
 INFO MODUK(DEFENCE SALES)

FEK 087/1	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 50	
10 MAR 1982	
INDEX	PA

YOUR TELNO 37: SKYVAN IN KOREA

1. PLEASE DELIVER AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEND COPIES TO THE MINISTERS FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND TO ROH TAE WOO.
2. BEGINS: I WAS SORRY TO MISS YOU WHEN YOU NAPPED THROUGH LONDON LAST MONTH. WHEN I MET YOUR COLLEAGUE MR ROH TAE WOO IN LONDON IN NOVEMBER HE EXPLAINED TO ME YOUR COUNTRY'S CONCERN OVER DEFENCE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT HE SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED TO LORD TRENCHARD THE HOPE THAT WE COULD INCREASE OUR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION AND IN PARTICULAR ESTABLISH COLLABORATION ON DEFENCE EQUIPMENT AND THE SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY. I SHOULD LIKE IF I MAY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO A POSITIVE WAY OF REALISING THAT HOPE.
3. YOU WILL KNOW THAT A BRITISH COMPANY, SHORT BROTHERS LIMITED, IS BIDDING FOR THE SUPPLY OF THEIR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, THE SKYVAN, TO THE KOREAN ARMY. THE SKYVAN HAS A PROVEN RECORD FOR RELIABILITY AND USE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTS AND I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS OFFER BY A LEADING BRITISH AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT. THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES MAY LIKE TO HAVE THREE PARTICULAR POINTS IN MIND BEFORE COMING TO A DECISION. FIRST THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT SUPPORTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SINCE THE KOREAN WAR, PARTICULARLY, AS IN 1980, WHEN YOUR COUNTRY HAS FOUND ITSELF PASSING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES. MOST RECENTLY WE HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED OUR SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CHUN'S LATEST PROPOSALS ON RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. SECONDLY,

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THE CONTRACT WITH SHORT BROTHERS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT FIRST CHOICE FOR A MAJOR DEFENCE DEAL WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AS IT INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THIRDLY, SHORT BROTHERS WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO ENABLE KOREA TO MANUFACTURE SKYVAN FOR SALE TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FAR EAST.

4. OUTLINE PROPOSALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO YOUR MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SHORTS ARE CURRENTLY IN SEOUL.

5. FOR THESE REASONS I BELIEVE THAT SHORT BROTHERS' OFFER OF SKYVAN WOULD BE A VERY SOUND CHOICE WHICH WOULD ENHANCE OUR RELATIONS EVEN FURTHER AS WE ENTER THE PERIOD OF THEIR CENTENARY.

6. I AM ASKING OUR AMBASSADOR TO SEND COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES, THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

7. MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MY BEST WISHES. I HOPE THAT WE SHALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BEFORE TOO LONG.  
ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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From the  
Minister for Trade 's office

John Coles Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE  
1 VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01 215 5146  
SWITCHBOARD 01 215 7877

15 min on Monday  
before I go to  
Brighton

1000 on Monday  
4: - Brief  
coming today  
C.P.

28 September 1982

Prime Minister

He is having talks with Mr. Pym as well as lunch;  
talks with Lord Cookfield; tea with the Duke of  
Kent; also a meeting with Lord Limerick.

Dear John

2. The F.C.O. think this enough. Do you want to see  
him in Brighton?  
A.J.C. 30/9.

I understand that you have had to decline a request made on behalf of the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs, that he should pay a brief courtesy call on the Prime Minister when he visits this country early next month. Mr Rees has learnt of Mr Lee's disappointment and while fully appreciating the enormous pressures on her that week, wonders whether the Prime Minister might be prepared to receive the Foreign Minister while in Brighton, if as we think might be the case, he is prepared to travel there to meet her. The Prime Minister will recall Mr Biffen's letter of 30 March in which he outlined the considerable commercial advantage that would be derived from paying some attention to the Koreans at a high political level. Mr Rees judges that even a very short meeting with Mr Lee could have a significant impact in terms of possible contracts and would be very grateful if you could give this idea urgent consideration.

Yours sincerely

David Hayes

DAVID HAYES  
Assistant Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Trade (PETER REES)



South Korea

PM's visit

March 82