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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. ~~T 1118~~ /83
216

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 December, 1983.

Dear Mr. President.

Thank you for your kind letter of 24 November. The terrible bombing in Rangoon came as a great shock to me. As you know, the British Government has consistently condemned acts of terrorism. We were glad to give our support to your Government and to the people of Korea during what must have been a time of great stress.

I share your wish to strengthen the very friendly ties between our two countries, especially during the current centenary of UK-Korean relations.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Chun Doo Hwan.

LW



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 December, 1983

Type letter pl.

Dear John,

A.S.C. 1/12

I enclose a message to the Prime Minister from the President of Korea (which we have just received) expressing thanks for British support in the aftermath of the Rangoon bombing incident in which, amongst others, five South Korean Ministers were killed by North Korean terrorists.

Although an acknowledgement may not strictly be necessary, we see some advantage in confirming to the Koreans at the highest level that our support was the result of a conscious decision by Ministers. I enclose a draft reply from the Prime Minister.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P R Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your kind letter of 24 November. The terrible bombing in Rangoon came as a great shock to me. As you know, the British Government has consistently condemned acts of terrorism. We were glad to give our support to your Government and to the people of Korea during what must have been a time of great stress.

CAVEAT.....

I share your wish to strengthen the very friendly ties between our two countries, especially during the current centenary of UK-Korean relations.

AOI 13/12.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

CC MASTER
OPS.



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T196B/83

President of the Republic of Korea

(Translation)

24 November 1983

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea and on my own behalf, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for Your Excellency and your Government's sympathy and support rendered to the people of Korea in connection with the tragic bombing incident which occurred in Rangoon on October 9, 1983 during my state visit to that country.

As you are aware, the Burmese Government broke off its diplomatic relations with North Korea and derecognized the latter's regime on November 4, 1983, announcing that the incident was proven by irrefutable evidences to be an act of terrorism perpetrated by the North Korean regime. I believe that the Burmese measures taken against North Korea are most appropriate and fully justified in view of the unprecedentedly serious nature of the incident.

It is deplorable that North Korea has long been involved in international violence and illegal activities not only on the Korean peninsula but throughout the world, causing deep concern among the peace-loving peoples of the world. The Rangoon bombing incident has unveiled once again the true identity of the perpetrator of such violence.

I sincerely hope that all peace-loving nations of the world including the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will join their efforts in bringing the North Korean regime to fully account for its unforgivable crime and thereby prevent possible recurrence of such an incident in the future.

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

It is my earnest desire that the friendly and cooperative relations which exist between our two countries will continue to be strengthened in the years to come.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

/s/ Chun Doo Hwan



대한민국 대통령

1983년 11월 24일

각 하,

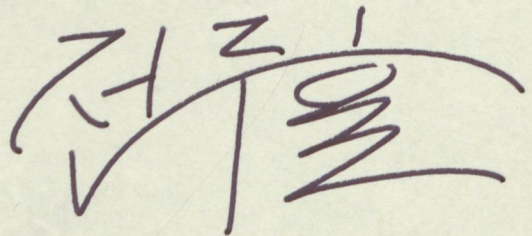
본인은 먼저 지난 1983년 10월 9일 본인의 버마 공식방문중 발생한 랑군 폭발사건과 관련하여 각하 및 귀국정부가 따뜻한 위로와 격려를 보내주신데 대하여 대한민국 정부와 국민을 대신하여 심심한 사의를 표하는 바입니다.

각하께서 아시는 바와 같이 버마정부는 1983년 11월 4일 랑군참사가 북한집단에 의해 자행된 테러행위였다는 사실이 완전 증거로써 명백히 입증되었다고 발표하고, 북한과의 외교관계를 단절함은 물론 북한집단에 대한 정부승인을 취소하는 조치를 취한 바 있습니다. 금번 버마정부의 대북한 조치는 동 참사가 예를 찾아볼 수 없는 중대한 국제적 범죄행위였음에 비추어 매우 적절하고 전적으로 정당한 것이라고 믿습니다.

북한집단은 지금까지 한반도는 물론 세계도처에서 각종 국제범죄 및 불법행위를 자행하여 전세계 평화애호국민들로 하여금 깊은 우려를 자아내게 하여 왔는 바, 금번의 랑군 폭발사건은 그러한 북한의 범죄 집단으로서의 정체를 다시 한번 만천하에 드러낸 것입니다.

본인은 귀국을 포함한 전세계 평화애호국민들이 다같이 힘을 합하여 금번 용서할 수 없는 범죄행위를 저지른 북한집단을 철저히 책임 추궁함으로써 다시는 이러한 행위를 자행하지 못하도록 하여야 할 것으로 믿습니다.

우리 양국간에 현존하는 우호협력관계가 앞으로 계속 강화되기를
희망하며, 각하의 건안을 기원합니다.



전 두 환

영국 수상

마가레트 힐다 대처 각하



10 DOWNING STREET

John ~~NSR~~ $\frac{10}{10}$

The Prime Minister sent the following message to the PM of S. Korea: —

"We have heard the news of the explosion at the Langson War memorial with shock.

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the deaths of your cabinet colleagues and other distinguished Koreans.

Our thoughts are with you at this tragic time."

Steve
10/10/57

PRIME MINISTER FROM DUTY CLERK

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT A NUMBER OF KOREAN
MINISTERS, INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER WERE KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION AT RANGOON WAR
MEMORIAL, BURMAH. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE
BUT WAS LATE.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAVE ASKED IF YOU WISH TO SEND THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

*We have heard the news of the explosion at the
Rangoon War Memorial with shock.*
"PLEASE ACCEPT MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE DEATHS
OF YOUR CABINET COLLEAGUES AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED
KOREANS, ~~WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN RANGOON.~~ OUR
THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TRAGIC TIME."

AGREE MESSAGE?

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO THE
WIDOW OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THEY EXPECT THE QUEEN
WILL BE SENDING ONE TO THE PRESIDENT.

9 OCTOBER 1983