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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 August 1985

Dear Peter,

INVITATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT KOREA

Thank you for your letter of 24 July about the invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Korea at the time of the Tokyo Economic Summit.

The Prime Minister would in principle be ready to pay a very brief visit to Seoul at that time. It is most unlikely however that she would be able to manage more than a single day and plans should be made on that assumption. It would be helpful to have, in September, an illustration of how such a visit could best be dovetailed with the journey to or from Tokyo.

BF1

Yours sincerely,
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

da



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*dec PPM
to be int PPM*

21 August 1985

Dear Tim,

Prime Minister's Visit to Korea

*19/8/85
Hawthorne*

It was helpful to have by telephone the news that the Prime Minister has an engagement on the evening of 1 May. We have looked at the implications of this for the travel arrangements on the VC10. To allow for arrival in Seoul at 1145 on 3 May, departure from Heathrow will need to be at 0800 on 2 May.

This should leave 24 hours in Korea, assuming that the Japanese follow past Summit practice and have the arrivals staged through the afternoon of 4 May. (The Prime Minister arrived at Williamsburg and Bonn at 1530; flying time from Seoul to Tokyo is 2 hours 5 minutes, with no time difference.)

This still looks feasible for a worthwhile visit to Korea, but we thought you might find this extra information helpful before replying to Peter Ricketts' letter of 8 August to you. Although the stopover in Korea will afford some respite from jet-lag for the party, one point we shall have to consider is the disposition of the VC10 and the remainder of the Summit delegation during the visit to Korea.

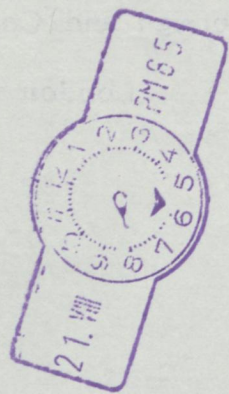
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(att)*

*Yours Sincerely,
Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

Timothy Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

Relatrails : S. Korea Oct 79.



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CPR



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

CPR to see.

9 August 1985

Dear Tim,

Invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Korea

Charles Powell indicated in his letter of 2 August that the Prime Minister had agreed in principle to visiting Seoul at President Chun's invitation at the time of the Tokyo Economic Summit next year.

Your letter asked for an illustration of how such a visit might be dove-tailed into the journey before or after the Summit.

Our advice is that a visit before Tokyo would be preferable. As I mentioned in my letter of 29 July to Charles Powell, a visit to Korea by the Prince and Princess of Wales has been under consideration. The timing of the Prince and Princess of Wales' visit has yet to be fixed but is most likely to be on or about 7-9 May. Given that the Summit is now likely to be on 4-6 May it would seem preferable on all counts for the Prime Minister's visit to Seoul to come immediately before the Summit. If this timing is acceptable we will submit suggestions in due course for the programme in Korea.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)

Tim Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

In response to a request for clarification from PFO, I confirmed that the PM had agreed in principle to a one day visit before the Tokyo Summit.

MBT 14/8

ps. I also noted the PM had a dinner engagement on 1/5/86.

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Relatrans : S. Kavela Oct 29.

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