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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

DP

Fri 13 Dec

10.30 - 10.45

18 November 1985

BR. 1911

Caroline  
Can we find 10  
minutes in Downing  
or Treasury  
CM

Dear Charles,

Call by Korean Ambassador on Prime Minister

As you know, the South Korean President is visiting Britain as a Guest of Government next April. After visiting Britain, he goes on to West Germany, France and Belgium. The visit to Belgium will be a full State Visit.

This will be the first visit paid to this country by the Head of State of a nation of increasing importance as a member of the world trading and financial systems. We are anxious to gain the maximum benefit to British commercial interests from the visit, the more so as European trading rivals for the Korean market will also be visited by President Chun during the same tour. But the Korean peninsula is also important politically as a potential flash-point and as a major concern to the United States as well as to China and the USSR.

The Prime Minister has accepted an invitation from the Koreans to pay a brief visit to Seoul en route to the Tokyo Economic Summit a month after the President's visit. The Korean Ambassador has now received instructions to deliver the formal letter of invitation to the Prime Minister and would greatly appreciate the chance to do so in person. No more than five or ten minutes need be involved and the timing of the call would be entirely at the Prime Minister's convenience within the next few weeks.

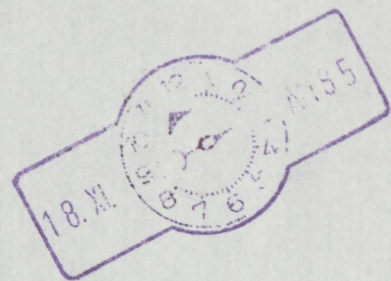
I understand that the Korean Ambassador mentioned the possibility of a call in a short conversation with the Prime Minister at the Banquet for the Emir of Qatar. He believes that Mrs Thatcher indicated that she would be prepared to permit the call. The Ambassador very much hopes to be able to have a very quick word with the Prime Minister at No 10 some time before the President arrives and Mrs Thatcher gives him dinner. Delivering the President's invitation would provide an opportunity for a short call. Sir Geoffrey Howe well appreciates the pressure on the Prime Minister's time, but hopes that she will be able to find time for this.

Yours ever,

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street







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EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

4 PALACE GATE

LONDON W8 5NF

18th December 1985

Mr. Charles David Powell  
10 Downing Street  
London

Dear Mr. Powell,

I was so pleased to have had an opportunity of meeting you the other day, and thank you for your arrangement for my meeting with The Right Honourable Prime Minister Thatcher. I was unusually honoured to see the Prime Minister who was kind enough to spare her busy time.

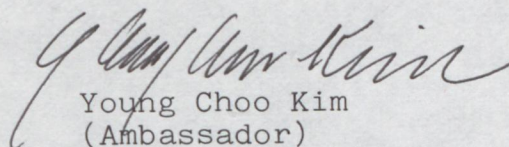
It is the most pleasant duty of mine to do anything I can do to make the Prime Minister's visit to Korea in May next year most successful one, believing that her visit and my President's visit to the United Kingdom, which will take place in April, will be a high time for consolidating further the friendship which have been traditionally existing between our two countries.

If there is any special wishes by the Prime Minister to be included in her visiting programmes, I shall be pleased to communicate them to Seoul so that my government may prepare best arrangements.

I hope seeing you soon, next time in the form of a lunch, and so on, if possible.

Thanking you again for your kindness for helping me in performing my important duty,

Yours sincerely,

  
Young Choo Kim  
(Ambassador)

ccle  
CDD

19/12.

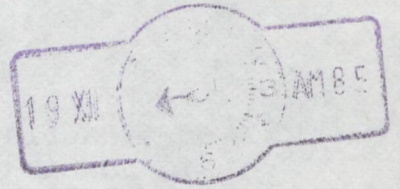




EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

4 PALACE GATE

LONDON W8 5NK



PRIME MINISTER

**KOREAN AMBASSADOR**

You agreed to see him very briefly so that he could deliver the official invitation to you to visit Korea next May. It will be the first ever visit by a British Prime Minister.

You will remember that the President of South Korea is coming here on an official visit in April.

CDP.

(C.D. Powell)

12 December 1985



cc: [unclear]  
[unclear]



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

12 December 1985

Dear Charles,

CD 12/17.

Call on Prime Minister by Korean Ambassador

Thank you for your letter of 19 November confirming that the Prime Minister would receive the Korean Ambassador for a brief call at 1030 on 13 December so that he can deliver a formal invitation from President Chun Doo-Hwan to Mrs Thatcher to visit Korea next May. I enclose a short brief and personality note.

We understand that the Prime Minister met the Ambassador very briefly during the Amir of Qatar's State Visit. This will be his first call on her.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street





CONFIDENTIAL

CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BY KOREAN AMBASSADOR, 13 DECEMBER

OBJECTIVE

1. The Ambassador will be delivering a formal letter from the President to confirm the invitation, already accepted, for the Prime Minister to visit Korea en route to the Tokyo Summit.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Grateful to have received invitation to visit Korea in May. Will be first visit paid to Seoul by a British Prime Minister. Follows success of Centenary Year of formal links between Britain and Korea in 1983.

3. Looking forward also to visit in April by President Chun Doo-Hwan. Mindful also that this will be first visit to Britain by a Korean Head of State.

4. Hope that these visits will provide opportunities to move our relations forward in qualitative sense with substantive and tangible results.

CONFIDENTIAL





CONFIDENTIAL

KIM, YOUNG CHOO

Ambassador to the United Kingdom and to Ireland.

Born 1923. He joined the newly formed Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1959, having graduated from the College of Law at Seoul National University in 1947.

Went to Tokyo as Second Secretary in 1955. In 1957 he returned to Seoul to become Director-General of the Political Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1960, he was appointed Counsellor in Paris, and two years later was promoted to Minister in London (when he met The Queen on two occasions). In 1963 he became Minister in Bonn, and in 1964 Minister in Kampala. In 1965 he returned home on appointment as a Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, to be followed by a succession of senior Ambassadorial posts; FRG (1967), Canada (1974) and Austria (1977). While in Canada he met HM The Queen at the Montreal Olympics.

In 1980 he was appointed a Research Commissioner at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security in Seoul. Mr Kim was designated "Ambassador-at-large" and was involved in the sensitive area of contacts between North and South Korea. He was appointed Ambassador to the United Kingdom in December 1984 and, in March 1985, was concurrently appointed to serve as Ambassador to Ireland.

Mr Kim is a thin man of medium height with a good command of English. He is reputed by his colleagues to be a disciplinarian and a stickler for regulations. Mr Kim and his wife have four children (one son and three daughters) all resident in the USA. The eldest daughter (32) is a Princeton graduate in genetic engineering now involved in post-graduate studies at the University of Chicago. The son (30) has a Harvard BA in economics. The second daughter (28) is a Harvard BA employed by the World Bank in Washington. The youngest daughter (19) is studying in Boston.

CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 November 1985

CALL BY KOREAN AMBASSADOR

U  
Thank you for your letter of 18 November.  
The Prime Minister could see the Ambassador  
for a very brief call at 1030 hours on Friday  
13 December.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RM