

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 April 1986

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to the Republic of Korea:
Possible Meetings with Opposition Leaders

It was predictable that the recent visit of President Chun Doo Hwan of the Republic of Korea would provide an opportunity for Amnesty International and a certain number of MPs to express their concerns to the Prime Minister and her colleagues about human rights and democracy in the Republic of Korea (ROK). The early day motion signed by 66 MPs on 8 April (copy enclosed) is perhaps the most carefully itemised expression of concern, although Amnesty International have also written to the Prime Minister enclosing a copy of their more detailed compilation (we are writing to you in parallel with a draft reply).

A theme in the Amnesty approach, and the support given to it by MPs, is the suggestion that the Prime Minister should use her forthcoming visit to the ROK to meet representatives of the opposition - some are named in the early day motion. The Department has discussed the matter with our Ambassador in Seoul, Mr Spreckley, and our advice is as follows.

The President himself will almost certainly invite the official leaders of the parliamentary opposition parties to his dinner for Mrs Thatcher. Some at least of them will accept the invitation. In particular, Mr Lee Min Won (President, New Korea Democratic Party) is likely to accept. He is not a particularly influential figure. In terms of political realities, the two Kims, Mr Kim Dae Jung and Mr Kim Young Sam are much more important. The latter may indeed be invited to the President's dinner.

Whether or not opposition leaders are invited to the President's dinner, our recommendation is that Mr Spreckley should be authorised to invite Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Lee Min Won and perhaps one or two other parliamentary opposition leaders to meet the Prime Minister at his reception at the Residence after the President's dinner. We also recommend that in addition to the Anglican Archbishop, whom you have already suggested for the guest list, Mr Spreckley should

/invite

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

invite Cardinal Kim to the reception. There are only two million Catholics in the ROK, and Cardinal Kim does not have anything like the influence of Cardinal Sin of the Philippines, but he has attracted a certain amount of international attention by his support for the opposition and their call for President Chun's successor to be elected directly rather than by an electoral college.

We are equally clear in our recommendation that Mr Kim Dae Jung should not be invited. Although he is perhaps the best known opposition figure in international terms following his abduction by the Korean CIA from an hotel in Tokyo some years ago, and highly publicised return to the ROK in 1985, he remains under suspended sentence and debarred from parliamentary activity.

I should be grateful to know whether we may go ahead and authorise Mr Spreckley to issue the invitations recommended above.

John

(R N Culshaw)

(R N Culshaw)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL

678 *BRITISH LEYLAND'S FUTURE (No. 2)*

Sir Frederic Bennett
Mr John Wheeler

★ 2

That this House in past, present and future decisions on the future of British Leyland should take into account the fact that there are many patriotic individuals and corporate concerns with no personal or corporate selfish interests at stake that sincerely regret that it has not so far proved possible to finalise arrangements with General Motors, which would have been most likely to safeguard the future best interests of the workforce involved, and those of the taxpayer, taking into account the fact that out of the total workforce engaged in the motor vehicle industry in the United Kingdom, 44 per cent. are employed by British-owned firms and 56 per cent by foreign-owned firms, and that in 1985 sales of new British Leyland cars in the United Kingdom accounted for only 17.9 per cent of total sales, and that insofar as 4-wheel drive motor vehicles sales are concerned, Land-Rovers and Range-Rovers in the United Kingdom amounted to only 41 per cent, and imported similar products to 59 per cent.; and trusts that in the event of no better prospects than General Motors offered to the long-term benefit of the British workforce and the taxpayers emerging, those who have so far successfully blocked such a deal will not see fit to complain if, and when, in the months ahead significant further BL job losses are involved or further accls upon the taxpayer to sustain the present ailing nationalised industry are made.

680 *AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA*

Mr Frank Cook
Mr Robert Litherland
Mr Tom Clarke
Mr Mark Fisher
Mr Kevin Barron
Mr Ian Mikardo

Mr Terry Lewis
Mr Don Dixon
Mr Bob McTaggart
Dr David Clark
Mr Harry Cohen
Mr Kevin McNamara
Mr Tony Lloyd
Mr Jack Ashley
Ms Harriet Harman
Mr George Park
Mr Martin Flannery
Mr Allan Roberts
Mr Terry Patchett
Mr David Winnick

Mr John Maxton
Mr Bob Clay
Mr Tony Blair
Dr John Marek
Mr Ernie Ross
Dr Norman A. Godman
Mr Frank Field
Mrs Ann Clwyd
Mr David Clelland
Mr Allen McKay
Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk
Mr Ron Brown
Mr William McKelvey
Mr Dennis Skinner

Mr Peter Snape
Mr Max Madden
Mr Robert N. Wareing
Mr John McWilliam
Mr Gerald Bermingham
Mr D. Campbell-Savours
Clare Short
Mr Derek Fatchett
Mr Ken Eastham
Mr Roland Boyes
Mr Dave Nellist
Mr Richard Caborn
Mr Allan Rogers
Mr Dennis Canavan

★ 66

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.

Mr Martin Redmond	Mr James Lamond	Mr John Evans
Mr Doug Hoyle	Mr Bill Michie	Mr Ray Powell
Mr Frank Haynes	Mr Jeff Rooker	Mr Tony Banks
Mr Terry Fields	Mr Michael Martin	Mr Bryan Gould
Mr Alex Eadie	Mr Jim Callaghan	Mr Clive Soley
Mr Chris Smith	Mr Tony Benn	

That this House registers acute concern at the findings of Amnesty International in relation to the incidence of repression, suppression and torture in South Korea, exemplified by the case of Kim Keun-tae who was subjected to persistent police harassment, arbitrary arrest, denial of basic civil and legal rights, detention incommunicado and severe physical beating and abuse ; urges the Prime Minister to take the opportunity of the visit to this country of President Chun Doo-Hwan to make strenuous representation of such acute concern, as she has been wont to do publicly in cases of other countries accused of similar or even less severe charges ; and further urges her most earnestly to ensure that on the occasion of her reciprocal visit to South Korea next month she insists on meeting opposition representatives, especially Mr Kim Dae Jung, Mr Kim Young Sam, Mr Lee Min Woo and Cardinal Kim Sou Dwan to satisfy herself and this country that they are made fully aware of prevailing circumstances and publicly to express British support for systems of government where opposition can be expressed freely, organised openly and demonstrated without penalty.

As Amendments to Mr Frank Cook's proposed Motion (Amnesty International and Human Rights in South Korea):

Mr Andrew F. Bennett

Line 3, leave out 'case' and insert 'cases'.

★ 1

Mr Andrew F. Bennett

Line 3, after 'Kim Keun-tae', insert 'and Soh Joon Shik'.

★ 1

Mr Andrew F. Bennett

Line 3, leave out 'was' and insert 'were'.

★ 1

681 CONDUCT OF UNIONIST POLITICIANS OVER ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

Mr Stephen Ross

Mr Archy Kirkwood

★ 2

That this House deeply regrets that prominent Unionist politicians remain unwilling, or unable, to give the Anglo-Irish Agreement a chance to work ; therefore calls upon all people of goodwill in Northern Ireland to make clear their utter rejection of the current destructive actions of so-called loyalists and to demonstrate in every way open to them their support for the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the rule of law ; and further to reserve judgment on the agreement and help to create a peaceful climate in which progress is possible.

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 April 1986

**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KOREA
MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS**

You wrote to me on 14 April about the Prime Minister meeting Opposition leaders during her visit to Korea. I am sure that the Prime Minister would agree with the advice given in your letter.

(Charles Powell)

R. N. Culshaw, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

6

6

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO KOREA: MEETING WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS

The Foreign Secretary recommends that you should meet a number of Opposition Leaders during your visit to Korea.

It is likely that the President will invite one or two to his dinner for you. They and some others might also be invited to the Ambassador's Reception.

But it is not proposed to invite Mr. Kim Dae Jung. He is by far the best known but is under suspended sentence and debarred from Parliamentary activity. Failure to invite Mr. Kim Dae Jung will considerably diminish the effect of meeting other Opposition Leaders. Nonetheless, it must be right not to see him given his position under Korean law. Moreover, to see him would undoubtedly cause the gravest offence to your hosts.

Agree to meet other constitutional Opposition Leaders who are within the law?

ms
cjp

CHARLES POWELL

14 April 1986