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PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO KOREA

You have agreed to visit Korea for 24 hours on your way to the Tokyo Economic Summit.

The Koreans and the Foreign Office - so far as you can distinguish the two in this affair - want you to stay longer and see more of the country.

This would be difficult, as you will see from the attached note.

You could not go much earlier - because of Cabinet, Questions and a GEC dinner (though the last is moveable). You can't go after the Economic Summit because it would again mean missing Cabinet and Questions. The only real alternative is to leave at 1800 on Thursday 1 May (missing the GEC dinner) getting to Seoul very late on Friday 2 May. This would at least give you the whole of Saturday 3 May in Korea as well as the Sunday morning.

Agree:-

either (a) stick to existing programme?

or

(b) postpone GEC dinner and go a bit earlier?

C.D.P

Am prepared to go earlier

if we do not offend

G.E.C. - is there

time to move the

G.E.C. dinner

17 January 1985

Present plan

Alternative

Thursday 1 May	Cabinet GEC Dinner	1800 depart London
Friday 2 May	0900 depart London	2145 arrive Seoul
Saturday 3 May	1245 arrive Seoul In Korea	In Korea
Sunday 4 May	In Korea	In Korea
Monday 5 May	Economic Summit	
Tuesday 6 May	Economic Summit	
Wednesday 7 May	Economic Summit	
Thursday 8 May	Economic Summit	
Friday 9 May	Economic Summit	

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bc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 January 1986

Dear Sir,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KOREA

Thank you for your letter of 13 January reporting the Korean Government's hope that the Prime Minister can spend rather longer in Korea than at present when she goes there in early May.

We have looked at this again. The Prime Minister can not visit Korea after the Tokyo Economic Summit. She would, however, be prepared to leave London at 1800 on Thursday 1 May, getting to Seoul at 2145 on Friday 2 May, thus having the whole of Saturday 3 May and the morning of Sunday 4 May in Korea before travelling on to Tokyo. I am afraid that this is the best we can do.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Powell

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

13 January 1986

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Korea

The Korean Foreign Minister has told our Ambassador in Seoul that his Government would very much prefer it if the Prime Minister were able to spend longer in Korea than the 24 hours at present planned (midday on Saturday 3 May to midday on Sunday 4 May). The Koreans' particular concern is the difficulty of organising during a weekend a programme which would show the Prime Minister all possible respect and give the visit maximum impact. They have asked whether, ideally, the Prime Minister could visit after the Economic Summit, arriving on 7 May and leaving on 9 May. Failing that, could Mrs Thatcher arrive on 1 or 2 May and stay for at least two nights?

The importance which the Koreans attach to their relations with Britain in general and to this visit in particular are reflected in the fact that President Chun is starting his April European tour in this country and that the Prime Minister alone (and not President Mitterand or Chancellor Kohl) is being invited to visit Korea in May.

We in turn ought to give due weight to such a major opportunity to make the Koreans aware of what Britain has to offer. Our share of the Korean import market is a disappointing 1.5% (the FRG has 2.8%). But there are a wide range of active projects to which the Prime Minister could draw attention during her visit: sale of British Aerospace 146s and 125s; NEI/Parsons turbine generator for two nuclear power stations; Pye outside television equipment for the Seoul Olympics, and many more. The timing is particularly opportune as Korea's trade relations with the United States are under strain because of American protectionist pressures.

A two day visit would have a proportionately far greater impact than one of only 24 hours. The principal advantage is that the Prime Minister would be able to spend time outside Seoul, on both the history which gives Britain such importance in Korean eyes (Panmunjom and a visit to lay a

/wreath

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wreath in the Gloster valley) and the industries in the south of the country where we are so keen to expand Britain's stake (at the POSCO steelworks in Kwangyang Bay where Davy McKee are building two new blast furnaces worth over £100 million). In the south a visit would also be possible to the UN cemetery at Pusan, where there are 884 British graves.

We can be confident that if the Prime Minister were able to spend more time on this first ever visit to Korea by a British Prime Minister, the Koreans would be deeply appreciative. This will give an opportunity to push ahead of our competitors, and to demonstrate to British industry the active support which Government is willing to give in important and under-exploited overseas markets.

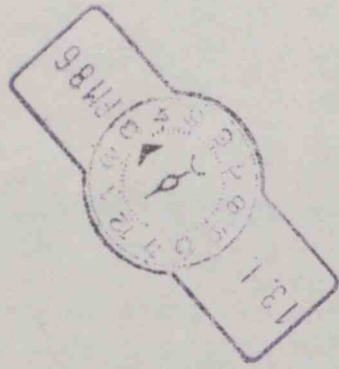
Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO KOREA

FLIGHT OPTIONS

PRESENT PLAN

Take-off 0900 2 May - Arrive 1245 3 May
(local)

OPTIONS

- (a) Take-off 1800 1 May - Arrive 2145 2 May
(jetlag time 0545)
- (b) Take-off 2400 1 May - Arrive 0345 3 May
(can be made a rather later time by extending refuelling stop en route)
- (c) Take off 0500 2 May - Arrive 0845 3 May