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News D

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Press office NO 10
Downing St

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FOR NEWS DEPARTMENT FROM HISCOCK.5

PLEASE PASS COPY IMMEDIATE TO PRESS OFFICE, 10 DOWNING STREET.
YOUR TELNO 143.

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS, PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT 2-4 MAY 1986.

HEREWITH MY LETTER INF 302/7 AND ENCLOSURE OF 10 MARCH 1986.

LETTER BEGINS:

PRESS ARRANGEMENTS: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT 2-4 MAY 1986.

NOW THAT THE ABOVE VISIT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED LOCALLY WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FIRST REQUEST FOR AN 'EXCLUSIVE' INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. I ENCLOSE A COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE JOONG-ANG DAILY NEWS, ONE OF THE TWO MAIN KOREAN LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPERS. WE WILL NO DOUBT RECEIVE OTHER REQUESTS FROM BOTH KOREAN LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR A LINE-TO-TAKE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. I RECALL CORRESPONDENCE, WHICH WE CANNOT NOW TRACE, ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO WHICH INDICATED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT GRANT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS OTHER THAN TO JOURNALISTS FROM COUNTRIES WHICH SHE WAS ABOUT TO VISIT. IF IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW COULD BE OFFERED IN THE UK BEFORE MRS. THATCHER'S DEPARTURE THEN I CONSIDER THAT THE KOREAN NEWSPAPER WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND A JOURNALIST TO LONDON FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. THE DURATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HERE IS LIKELY TO BE TOO SHORT FOR US TO BE ABLE TO FIT IN ANY EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW DURING THE PROGRAMME. WE ARE THEREFORE HOLDING THE LINE WITH ENQUIRIES AT THE MOMENT THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRESS FACILITIES IN KOREA WILL GO BEYOND THE SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCE. IT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHICH PAPER TO WHICH TO OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE. THE DONG-A ILBO, WHICH HAS SUPPORTED BRITAIN FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS FINANCED E.G. ROYAL BALLET TOURING COMPANIES HERE WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES OF PRESENTATION IF AN INTERVIEW WERE GRANTED TO ANOTHER PAPER HERE. SO, UNLESS IT IS POSSIBLE TO OFFER AN 'EXCLUSIVE' IN LONDON BEFORE DEPARTURE TO THE FIRST ENQUIRER, I.E. THE JOONG-ANG, THEN WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE REFUSE ALL REQUESTS ON THE BASIS OF INSUFFICIENT TIME.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVELLING PRESS WILL BE MADE BY MYSELF AND OUR SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER MR. SANGON CHU AND IT WOULD HELP US CONSIDERABLY HERE IF THE MAIN PRESS ARRANGEMENTS CORRESPONDENCE COULD BE UNCLASSIFIED AS FAR AS IS POSSIBLE.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVELLING PRESS WILL BE MADE BY MYSELF AND OUR SENIOR INFORMATION OFFICER MR. SANGON CHU AND IT WOULD HELP US CONSIDERABLY HERE IF THE MAIN PRESS ARRANGEMENTS CORRESPONDENCE COULD BE UNCLASSIFIED AS FAR AS IS POSSIBLE.

LETTER ENDS.

ENCLOSURE BEGINS:

MAIN CONTENT OF JOONG-ANG DAILY NEWS LETTER OF 5 MARCH.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRIME MINISTER, MARGARET THATCHER:
WITH MY HEARTIEST WELCOMING OF YOUR VISIT TO KOREA THIS MAY,
I HAVE A GREAT HONOUR OF ASKING YOU TO ALLOW AN EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF OUR NEWSPAPER, THE JOONG-ANG
DAILY NEWS, SEOUL, KOREA.

IT WOULD BE A VERY GREAT PLEASURE OF OURS IF YOU COULD AFFORD TO
SEE MR. KIM, KUN JIN, FOREIGN EDITOR, IN SEOUL DURING YOUR VISIT
TO KOREA, BY YOUR GREAT FAVOUR FOR OUR NEWSPAPER READERS AND KOREAN
PEOPLE.

AMONG THE TOPICS, THE FUTURE OF THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE POLICY OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM TOWARD KOREA, AND THE ROLE AND POSITION OF YOUR
COUNTRY IN EAST ASIA WOULD BE THE MAIN INTEREST OF OUR NEWSPAPER
READERS AND KOREAN PEOPLE.

THE JOONG-ANG DAILY NEWS IS ONE OF THE LARGEST NEWSPAPERS IN KOREA,
WHICH IS INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN. OUR NEWSPAPER WAS SET UP
TWENTY YEARS AGO AND ITS CIRCULATION REACHES TODAY TO 1.5 MILLION.
AND WE DARE SAY OUR NEWSPAPER IS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL
DAILIES IN KOREA.

MR. KIM WHO WILL REPRESENT OUR NEWSPAPER IN THE INTERVIEW IS ONE
OF THE BEST JOURNALISTS OF OUR NEWSPAPER. HE IS A PROMISING
JOURNALIST WITH TWENTY-YEAR JOURNALISM CAREER INCLUDING EIGHT-YEAR
EXPERIENCE IN WORLD NEWS COVERAGE AS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

IF YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THE INTERVIEW, WE HOPE YOU
WOULD KINDLY ACCEPT A WRITTEN INTERVIEW INSTEAD.

SIGNED: LEE, CHONG-KH,
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER.

ENCLOSURE ENDS.

WETTON.

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