

Classification: SECRET (ONLY)
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Systematic Review Decision: RELEASED, APPROVED

~~SECRET~~

RELEASE AUTHORITY: MORANDR SENIOR REVIEWER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELEASE DECISION: RELEASE IN FULL DATE: APRIL 21, 2006

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMB GLEYSTEN FROM RICH

E.O. 12065: RDS-3 8/29/90 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

TAGS: PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

1. ~~(S)~~, ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I NOTE FROM THE KOREAN PRESS THAT THE CLAIM IS BEING MADE THAT I CALLED ON AMBASSADOR KIM AUGUST 27 TO CONVEY THE SECRETARY'S CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT CHUN. ALTHOUGH WE CAN EXPECT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EVEN MY VISIT TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY WILL BE PLAYED UP FOR WHATEVER PUBLICITY IT IS WORTH, THE FACTS ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, AND I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THE BACKGROUND.

3. I DID CALL ON AMBASSADOR KIM AUGUST 27 UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE PRIVATELY TO INFORM KIM OF A NUMBER OF MATTERS AND TO MAKE ONE REQUEST. POLITICAL COUNSELOR PARK WAS ALSO PRESENT.

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4. I INFORMED KIM THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SENT A PERSONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CHUN VIA YOU EXPRESSING OUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS AS CHUN ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY. I ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER MESSAGE AT THIS TIME -- NO PUBLIC COURTESY CONGRATULATION. I INFORMED KIM OF OUR LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND WITH THE JOINT CHIEFS OF THE PRECEDING DAY AS AN INDICATION OF THE GREAT CONCERN OF THE USG WITH KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS AT THIS JUNCTURE. I DESCRIBED TO KIM THE SECRETARY'S EXPRESSION OF GREAT PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN YOU AT THIS TIME AND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MISSION AS AMBASSADOR TO KOREA.

5. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, I ALSO STRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE PREFERRED TO CONDUCT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE ROKG THROUGH APPROPRIATE AND NORMAL CHANNELS, AND THAT THEREFORE WE WOULD PREFER IF KCIA STATION CHIEF JOHNNY SOHN (M-R:

SON CHONG-NAE) WOULD CURTAIL HIS ACTIVITIES SOMEWHAT. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS IN NO WAY PERSONAL, AND THAT WE HAD CONFIDENCE IN ALL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STAFF, BUT THAT IN VIEW OF SOHN'S PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITIES HIS WIDE INVOLVEMENT IN DIPLOMATIC ISSUES WITH MANY PARTS OF THE USG WAS INAPPROPRIATE. KIM GOT THE POINT AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD HANDLE IT. I RATHER REGRETTED PUTTING HIM ON THE SPOT ON THIS IN HIS OWN DELICATE RELATIONS WITH SOHN, BUT IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO MAKE THE FORMAL APPROACH THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR. NEXT WEEK I PLAN TO TALK TO SOHN DIRECTLY, AT WHICH TIME I WILL ALSO INFORM HIM THAT CHUN DIRECTLY REPUDIATED HIS ASSURANCES REGARDING KIM DAE-JUNG. CHRISTOPHER

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