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OA/ID Number: 13477
Folder ID Number: 13477-002

Folder Title:
Korean General Assembly, 2/27/89 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:
1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☒
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☒	☐
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	BOSKIN	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	ROSE	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, x2930) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/16, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 FEB 15 PM 3:55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

Mr. Speaker, Members of the National Assembly of the
Republic of Korea, and distinguished guests:

I'm honored by your invitation to address this body today.
I stand in your Assembly as Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and
Reagan have stood before me. And I reaffirm, as they did,
America's support, friendship, and respect for the Republic of
Korea and its people.

As a former member of the United States House of
Representatives, I take particular pleasure in coming to this
legislative chamber where the freely elected representatives of
Korea's own democratic success story meet to debate and to
implement the will of the Korean people.

I know that there must be times when this body, just like
the United States Congress, is full of sound and fury, noise and
acrimony. But that is the nature of democracy, and we wouldn't
have it any other way. As the great statesmen Winston Churchill
once said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all
those other ~~forms that have been tried from time to time.~~" ^a [for]

This is my first major address on foreign soil since becoming the 41st President of the United States of America. My visit here today reflects the importance I place on the relations between our two countries, the strength of our nations' ties, and the promise that our relationship holds for the future of the world.

My inauguration as President a month ago represented a tradition in the United States that speaks of both continuity and change. Continuity and change will also be the guideposts of relations between the United States and Korea in the years ahead. Where change is needed or inevitable, let us be a positive force for change. Where continuity is our mandate, let us go forward, resolute in our commitment to democracy and human rights. Throughout, let our close economic and strategic relationship be a constant.

I first came to the Asia-Pacific region during World War II more than 45 years ago. I was a teenager -- 19 years old -- and I flew torpedo bombers in the United States Navy. It was then, for the first time in my life, that I truly appreciated the cost of freedom. Believe me, I have never forgotten.

In the early years following World War II, the future of Korea and of all Asia was very much in doubt. It was a time of great struggle -- between Korea's hope for freedom and

prosperity, and the lingering legacies of war, poverty, and colonial rule.

On a June morning in 1950, the Communist army of the north smashed into the Republic of Korea intent on destroying your nation. Without hesitation or delay, American forces rushed to your aid. Together, Americans and Koreans fought side-by-side for your right to be sovereign and independent.

I remember the devastation of your country. Your cities lay in rubble. Your factories were in shambles. Millions of your people wandered the streets homeless and hungry.

In 1951, in the midst of the war, General Douglas MacArthur addressed a Joint Session of our Congress. He spoke of you, saying, "The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description." As he spoke those words, our Congress interrupted him with applause for you and your people.

After the war, you overcame every imaginable hardship. History will long record your story -- how in less than a generation you stepped out of the shadow of tyranny and into the light of liberty and economic opportunity.

Today Korea is a rising nation... a vibrant, dynamic nation... a nation riding the crest of the wave of the future.

Never before has the pride and the progress of your nation been more evident than last summer when this magnificent city played host to the 24th Olympic Games. Nearly 10,000 athletes from 160 nations were here. Another 3 billion people watched on television. What they saw -- from the moment Sohn Kee Chung carried the torch into your Olympic Stadium until the last embers of the Olympic flame were extinguished at the closing ceremonies -- was ^{one of} the most spectacular sports festival^s in the history of mankind.

You played host to the world, and what a truly gracious host you were. Congratulations.

Indeed, the past several years have seen the emergence of the entire Asia-Pacific region. My trip -- beginning in Japan, stopping in China, and finishing here in Korea -- stands as testimony to that reality, and what it means to the future of the world. As Mike Mansfield, the venerable former Ambassador to Japan, has said many times in recent years, "The next century will be the century of the Pacific." As usual, Mike Mansfield's words are right on the mark.

Today, Asia is one of the hubs of the earth -- economically, politically, and diplomatically. The Republic of Korea stands at the fore. You are a world-class commercial competitor; your commitment to democracy is demonstrated daily in this chamber;

and your creative diplomacy -- your Nordpolitik -- is reshaping relations in and beyond the Asia-Pacific. ?

In my recent meetings with Prime Minister Takeshita of Japan, China's Deng Xiaoping, and with you and your political leaders, I have discussed challenging bilateral, global, and regional issues. Our discussions have been marked at all times by a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

I have come here today in that same spirit. I have no desire to lecture. The United States has no desire to dominate. Rather, I am here as the leader of a faithful friend and a dependable ally. I am here today to ensure that we continue to work together in all things.

Our most important mission together is to maintain the freedom and democracy you fought so hard to win. As President, I am committed to maintaining American forces in Korea in support of our Mutual Defense Treaty as long as the threat from the North continues, and for as long as the Korean people wish them to remain. In the years ahead, we must work together to meet the evolving security needs of the Korean Peninsula.

Peace through strength is a policy that has served the security interests of our two nations well. However, deterrence alone will not be enough to ensure the comprehensive security needs of the Korean people in the years ahead. We must

complement deterrence with an active diplomacy in search of dialogue with our adversaries, including North Korea.

(Lilley) The American people share your goal of peaceful unification on terms acceptable to the Korean people. It is for that reason that we actively support the ^{peaceful} initiatives of President Roh to build bridges to the North. I will work closely with President Roh to coordinate our efforts to draw the North toward practical, ^{peaceful} and productive dialogue, to ensure that our policies are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

I have spoken of the need for vigilance, strength, and diplomacy to deter aggression and preserve peace. There is another source of strength, and it is well represented in this Assembly. The development of democratic political institutions is the surest means to build the national consensus that is the foundation of true security.

Just as we must work together to achieve better security, we must also work together to achieve greater economic prosperity.

The progress of the Korean economy is a ^{inspiration} model for developing countries throughout the world. By unleashing the diligence and creativity of your people, you have led Korea into an era of unprecedented opportunity and prosperity. Korea has become an industrial power, a major trading power, and a ^{first} world-class ^(Bates) competitor. ^(STUP.)

(Lilley) You are fulfilling the prophecy of the Indian poet Tagore who wrote, "Korea, once a bright light of the golden age of Asia, if it is relit, it will be the light of the East."

Korea was once called the "Hermit Kingdom." Today it deserves to be called an "Economic Kingdom." All Koreans can take pride in what you have achieved.

(Bates) Yet we also cannot overlook that your economic success has created concerns in the management of our bilateral economic relations. For the American people, and for the Korean people as well, ^(reducing) managing down our bilateral trade imbalance will be both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge will be to resist the call for protectionism; the opportunity will be to expand our economic prosperity.

We both have a lot at stake. You are our seventh largest trading partner, larger than many of our traditional European trading partners -- and our trade is growing. The United States is both Korea's largest market and ^{second} largest source of ^{imports.} ~~supplies.~~ We are also a leading source of the investment and technology that you will need to fuel further economic growth and development.

Korea's economy has benefitted greatly from the free flow of trade. Yet today, in many countries, there is a call for greater protectionism. I am asking you to join the United States in rejecting these short-sighted pleas.

Protectionism is fool's gold. Protectionism may seem like ^{to be} ~~like~~ ^(Gray) ~~(Bates)~~ the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down.

Nothing will stop the engine of Korea's economic growth faster than new barriers to international trade.

I want for Korean consumers what American consumers already enjoy: high-quality, low-priced goods and services from all over the world. Protectionism will hurt the Korean consumer by cutting competition, driving up prices, and robbing them of the freedom of choice.

(Bates)
(Lilley) Yes, we have made progress in this area. American exports to Korea are up. ^{Korean} Tariffs are down, and ^{its} non-tariff barriers are down, too. ^{The service sector is opening} But more needs to be done. And I want our two nations to work together to do what still needs to be done.

(Lilley) As one of the world's major trading powers, the Republic of Korea sets an example for other nations who are watching what you do. As an emerging economic leader, you ^{inevitably} must shoulder important responsibilities to ensure the continued strength and stability of the global marketplace. You, the representatives of the Korean people, will face the challenge to continue to open domestic markets, to improve living standards, ^{by opening domestic markets} and to adopt ^{exchange rate} appropriate international financial policies that reflect your standing as a prosperous and powerful trading nation. (Bates)

The United States shares similar responsibilities for the well-being of the world economy. Our two peoples should, at all times, bear in mind that our trading system is truly an

international "joint venture," and that we share a special responsibility for its continued success.

My friends, and yes, you are my friends, I began today by talking about my inauguration as the new President of the United States just a few short weeks ago. The tradition of passing the torch of leadership from one American president to another is a time when we celebrate the strength of our democracy and a time when we renew our commitment to the values on which it is built.

Today I am renewing my commitment to you, as the leader of one sovereign state to the elected, legislative body of another. I am renewing my commitment to you to work together for the good of our peoples and of all humanity.

In the years ahead, the United States will stand with you. We will stand with you against the forces of oppression, and for the forces of peace, prosperity, and independence.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the warmth and hospitality you have bestowed upon me and my wife, Barbara.

Thank you. And God bless you.

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1989 FEB 15 PM 7:23

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
4 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

Thank you... Thank you all very much.

I am truly moved by your gracious hospitality and kindness on my return to Seoul. On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and me, let me thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Since I was last here in 1982, it seems as though an entire new city has arisen. Once again I am astounded by the vitality and ingenuity of the Korean people.

(gray) A generation ago, Korea was a battle weary, devastated land. Your hopes for peace, prosperity and independence were threatened by the legacy of war, poverty, and colonial rule. But today, less than four decades ^{after} ~~since~~ our two nations fought side-by-side against oppression, the Republic of Korea is recognized as an emerging economic and democratic power. Today, Korea stands proudly in the midst of an unprecedented era of prosperity and opportunity.

Your progress economically has been matched by your progress toward a stronger democracy. Mr. President, you have both led

and responded to your people's strivings for democracy. On behalf of the United States, I salute your dedication to democracy, human rights, and respect for the individual.

I am here today as the leader of a nation which will continue to be a faithful friend and a dependable ally to Korea. We applaud the responsible way you have opened a dialogue with North Korea and we remain committed to the security and freedom of your nation. We will not -- ever -- waver in that commitment. We look forward to remaining a flexible and supportive partner as you explore the exciting possibilities of Nordpolitik.

Now, may I propose a toast to President Roh, to the Korean people, and to a continued Korean-American relationship of mutual respect, understanding, and trust.

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1989 FEB 15 PM 7:23

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

It is an honor and a pleasure to visit with you today.
Barbara and I just wish we had more time to spend with all of
you. ((But we've got to catch our plane and get home to take the
dog out... so I won't be long.))

On behalf of the American people I want to thank the
Americans who are here, and those who could not be here, for the
job you're doing and the sacrifices you're making ~~to be~~ so far (Gray)
from home, your families, and your friends.

To the Koreans here today, I want to thank you for the new
friendships you offer, and the absolutely wonderful welcome
you've given us.

I came to Korea today, ^{on} ~~in~~ my first presidential trip outside
(Gray)
of North America, to reaffirm our alliance with the Republic of
Korea, which is vital to the security, political, and economic
interests of the United States.

Earlier today I visited with President Roh at the Blue
House, and then spoke to the National Assembly. All of our talks

have been marked by a spirit of friendship and cooperation. I told the President and the members of the National Assembly that the United States will remain a faithful friend and a dependable ally in the years ahead.

The United States will continue to stand with Korea against outside aggressors. We will continue to support Korea's democratic processes and diplomatic initiatives. And let me just say that as a former Ambassador, I respect the job our diplomats are doing in helping to shape and carry out our foreign policy.

We will continue to work with Korea to nurture more open markets, ^{appropriate exchange rates} and greater economic growth. The American business community is well represented here today, and your efforts are vital to our future competitiveness.

America's commitment to the Republic of Korea is demonstrated, in large part, by the presence of all of you. To the men and women of America's armed forces, you can take great pride in the contribution you're making to preserving peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I've been to the DMZ. Believe me, I know what you face day-by-day. And as your Commander-in-Chief, I salute you.

(Bates)
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NSC m
this

In the first several weeks since my inauguration, you may have heard that I have been emphasizing the importance of public service. There is no higher calling than to serve your country. In assembling my new Administration I have tried to ~~hire~~^{attract} (Gray) honorable men and women who share my conviction that a public office is a public trust.

Well, many of you are public servants. You may be a long way from home but your willingness and dedication to serve do not go unnoticed. I appreciate your work. Our government appreciates your work. And the American people appreciate your work.

Being here has given us a renewed energy and a renewed commitment to work with the Republic of Korea to build a new era of peace and prosperity.

Thank you for everything you do.

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0893

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02/15/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89

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 2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
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- SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☒
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CICCONI	☐	☒	BOSKIN	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	ROSE	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, x2930) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/16, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

TO: CHRISS WINSTON

February 17, 1989

The NSC concurs with changes noted.

Brent Scowcroft

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

cc Jim Cicconi

89 FEB 16 A 8: 24



1989 FEB 15 PM 3.55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

Mr. Speaker, Members of the National Assembly of the
Republic of Korea, and distinguished guests:

I'm honored by your invitation to address this body today.
I stand in your Assembly as Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and
Reagan have stood before me. And I reaffirm, as they did,
America's support, friendship, and respect for the Republic of
Korea and its people.

As a former member of the United States House of
Representatives, I take particular pleasure in coming to this
legislative chamber where the freely elected representatives of
Korea's own democratic success story meet to debate and to
implement the will of the Korean people.

I know that there must be times when this body, just like
the United States Congress, is full of ^{Contention, emotion, and tumult.} ~~sound and fury, noise and~~
~~acrimony.~~ ^{sound} But that is the ^{at work} nature of democracy, and we wouldn't
have it any other way. As the great statesmen Winston Churchill
once said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all
those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

This is my first major address on foreign soil since becoming the 41st President of the United States of America. My visit here today reflects the importance I place on the relations between our two countries, the strength of our nations' ties, and the promise that our relationship holds for the future of the world.

My inauguration as President a month ago represented a tradition in the United States that speaks of both continuity and change. Continuity and change will also be the guideposts of relations between the United States and Korea in the years ahead. Where change is needed or inevitable, let us be a positive force for change. Where continuity is our mandate, let us go forward, resolute in our commitment to democracy and ^{freedom.} ~~human rights.~~

Throughout, let our close economic and strategic relationship ~~be~~ ^{remains, as it is,} a pillar of the structure of peace in East ~~a constant.~~ Asia.

I first came to ^{this region during a war} ~~the Asia-Pacific region during World War II~~ more than 45 years ago. I was a teenager -- 19 years old -- and I flew torpedo bombers in the United States Navy. It was then, for the first time in my life, that I truly appreciated the ^{value} ~~cost~~ of freedom ^{and the price we pay to keep it.} Believe me, I have never forgotten.

In the early years following World War II, the future of Korea and of all Asia was very much in doubt. It was a time of great struggle -- between Korea's hope for freedom and

twin menaces of war and invasion.
 prosperity, and the ~~lingering legacies of war, poverty, and~~
~~colonial rule.~~

On a June morning in 1950, the Communist army of the North
 smashed into the Republic of Korea intent on destroying your
 nation. Without hesitation or delay, ^{the} American forces ^{of the United States and many other countries} rushed to
 your aid. Together, Americans and Koreans fought side-by-side
 for your right to ^{determine your own future.} ~~be sovereign and independent.~~

I remember the devastation of your country. Your cities lay
 in rubble. Your factories were in shambles. Millions of your
 people wandered the streets homeless and hungry.

In 1951, in the midst of the war, General Douglas MacArthur
 addressed a Joint Session of our Congress. He spoke of ^{Korea} you,
 saying, "The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the
 Korean people defies description." As he spoke those words, our
 Congress interrupted him with applause for you and your people.

After the war, you overcame every imaginable hardship.
 History will long record your story -- how in less than a
 generation you stepped ~~out of the shadow of tyranny and~~ into the
 light of liberty and economic opportunity. You can be proud of
 the miracle you have achieved. And we are proud to be associated
 with you.

Today Korea is a rising nation... a vibrant, dynamic
 nation... a nation riding the crest of the wave of the future.

Never before has the pride and the progress of your nation been more evident than last summer when this magnificent city played host to the 24th Olympic Games. Nearly 10,000 athletes from 160 nations were here. Another 3 billion people watched on television. What they saw -- from the moment Sohn Kee Chung carried the torch into your Olympic Stadium until the last embers of the Olympic flame were extinguished at the closing ceremonies -- was ^{an incredibly} [the most] spectacular sports festival. ~~[in the history of mankind.]~~

You played host to the world, and what a truly gracious host you were. Congratulations.

Indeed, ^{witnessed} The past several years have ~~seen~~ the emergence of the entire Asia-Pacific region. My trip -- beginning in Japan, stopping in China, and ^{concluding} ~~finishing~~ here in Korea -- stands as testimony to that reality, and what it means to the future of the world. As Mike Mansfield, the venerable former Ambassador to Japan, has said many times in recent years, "The next century will be the century of the Pacific." [As usual, Mike Mansfield's words are right on the mark.]

^{most dynamic areas on} Today, Asia is one of the ~~hubs of the~~ earth -- economically, politically, and diplomatically. The Republic of Korea stands at the fore. You are a world-class ^{economic power} ~~commercial competitor~~; your commitment to democracy is demonstrated daily in this chamber;

Bold
and your ~~creative~~ diplomacy -- your Nordpolitik -- is reshaping relations in and beyond the Asia-Pacific region.

In my ~~recent~~ meetings with Prime Minister Takeshita of Japan, China's Deng Xiaoping, and with you and your ~~political~~ leaders, I have discussed challenging bilateral, global, and regional issues. Our discussions have been marked at all times by a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

I have come here today ~~in that same spirit. I have no desire to lecture. The United States has no desire to dominate.~~ Rather, I am here as the leader of a faithful friend and a dependable ally. I am here today to ensure that we continue to work together in all things.

Our most important mission together is to maintain the freedom and democracy you fought so hard to win. As President, I am committed to maintaining American forces in Korea ~~and to~~ support of our Mutual Defense Treaty, ~~as long as the threat from the~~

There are no plans to reduce U.S. forces in Korea. Our soldiers and airmen are there at the request of the Republic of Korea to deter aggression from the North and their presence contributes to the peace and stability of northeast Asia. They will remain in the Republic of Korea as long as the government and the people of South Korea want ~~us to~~ *them to* remain ~~and as~~ *they are needed and*

~~long as we believe it is in the interest of peace to keep them there.~~

~~In the years ahead, we must work together to meet the evolving security needs of the Korean Peninsula.~~ *as equal partners*

Peace through strength is a policy that has served the security interests of our two nations well. ~~However, deterrence alone will not be enough to ensure the comprehensive security needs of the Korean people in the years ahead.~~ *And* we must

complement deterrence with an active diplomacy in search of dialogue with our adversaries, including North Korea.

The American people share your goal of peaceful unification on terms acceptable to the Korean people. It is for that reason that we actively support the initiatives of President Roh to build bridges to the North. I will work closely with President Roh to coordinate our efforts to draw the North toward practical and productive dialogue, to ensure that our policies are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

I have spoken of the need for vigilance, strength, and diplomacy to deter aggression and preserve peace. There is another source of strength, and it is well represented in this Assembly. The development of democratic political institutions

is the surest means to build the national consensus that is the foundation of true security. *From its birth as a nation America has sought to shield the lamp of liberty and democracy and the American people join me today in celebrating Korea's joining the ranks of the democracies.*

Just as we must work together to achieve better security, *within a democratic framework,* we must also work together to achieve greater economic prosperity *within the system of free and open international trade.*

The progress of the Korean economy is a model for developing countries throughout the world. By unleashing the *energies* ~~intelligence~~ and creativity of your *talented* people, you have led Korea into an era of unprecedented opportunity and prosperity. Korea has become an industrial power, a major trading power, and a world-class competitor.

→ it has achieved great prosperity through participation in the international trading system that has made the nations of free Asia the envy of the world.

of Korea

Korea was once called the "Hermit Kingdom." Today ~~it~~ the Republic ^{"International"} because ^{"Economic"} deserves to be called an "Economic Kingdom." All Koreans can take pride in what you, ~~have achieved~~ as a people, have wrought.

Yet we also cannot overlook that your economic success has created concerns in the management of our bilateral economic relations. For the American people, and for the Korean people as well, managing down our bilateral trade imbalance will be both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge will be to resist ~~the~~ calls for protectionism; the opportunity will be to expand ~~our~~ ^{the} economic prosperity of both countries.

We both have a lot at stake. You are our seventh largest trading partner, larger than many of our traditional European trading partners -- and our trade is growing. The United States is both Korea's largest market and largest source of supplies. We are also a leading source of the investment and technology that you will need to fuel further economic growth and development.

Korea's economy has benefitted greatly from the free flow of trade. Yet today, in many countries, there is a call for greater protectionism. I am asking you to join the United States in rejecting these short-sighted pleas.

Protectionism is fool's gold. Protectionism may seem like the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down.

Nothing will stop the engine of Korea's economic growth faster than new barriers to international trade.

I want for Korean consumers what American consumers already enjoy: high-quality, low-priced goods and services from all over the world. Protectionism will hurt ~~the~~ Korean consumer^s by

cutting competition, driving up prices, and robbing them of the freedom of choice. *The international market place has been the source of our collective prosperity. and both Korea and the United States will continue to prosper in direct proportion to our unfettered participation in the free and open*

our countries Yes, we have made progress in this area. American exports *exchange of goods and services.* to Korea are up. Tariffs are down, and non-tariff barriers are down, too. *But I am confident that* ~~But~~ more needs to be done. ~~And I want~~ our two *can* nations *accomplish* to work together to ~~do~~ what still needs to be done.

As one of the world's major trading powers, the Republic of Korea sets an example for other nations who are watching what you do. As an emerging economic leader, you must shoulder important responsibilities to ensure the continued strength and stability of the global marketplace. You, the representatives of the Korean people, will face the challenge to continue to open domestic markets, to improve living standards, and to adopt appropriate international financial policies that reflect your standing as a prosperous and powerful trading nation.

The United States shares similar responsibilities for the well-being of the world economy. Our two peoples should, at all times, bear in mind that our trading system is truly an

international "joint venture," and that we share a special responsibility for its continued success.

I mean
My friends, and ^{yes, you are} my friends, I began today by talking about my inauguration as the new President of the United States just a few short weeks ago. The tradition of passing the torch of leadership from one American president to another is a time when we celebrate the strength of our democracy.

is *insert for p. 9*
As I reflect over the last forty years of ^{Asian} history, ~~in Asia~~ the trends ~~remain~~ remarkably positive, ~~from an American point of view.~~

~~Whereas at the end of the Second World War, Asia was in ruins, and~~
~~whereas in the 1950s, and even in the 1960s, the forces of radical~~
~~revolution at times appeared to be the wave of the future. In the~~
~~1980s, we see an Asia in which American aspirations regarding~~
~~liberty, democracy, and prosperity have become almost universal.~~
~~And most important of all, as we stand here in your National~~ *for Korea;*
~~Assembly, these three aspirations are no longer a far-off dream~~
~~instead they --through your devotion and hard work, have become a~~
~~reality and we salute you.~~ *--- they*
celebrate your triumph.

Human aspirations for basic political and economic freedoms have become almost universal, and can no longer be denied.

Thank you. And God bless you.

#

Action: Harvey
cc: MB TGM
SL**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**DATE: 02/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:
1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☒
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☒	☐
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	BOSKIN	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	ROSE	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS: Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, x2930) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/16, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

See typoon P#1

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02/15/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
 2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
 3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
- SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
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James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 FEB 15 PM 3:55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

Mr. Speaker, Members of the National Assembly of the
Republic of Korea, and distinguished guests:

I'm honored by your invitation to address this body today.
I stand in your Assembly as Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and
Reagan have stood before me. And I reaffirm, as they did,
America's support, friendship, and respect for the Republic of
Korea and its people.

As a former member of the United States House of
Representatives, I take particular pleasure in coming to this
legislative chamber where the freely elected representatives of
Korea's own democratic success story meet to debate and to
implement the will of the Korean people.

I know that there must be times when this body, just like
the United States Congress, is full of sound and fury, noise and
acrimony. But that is the nature of democracy, and we wouldn't
have it any other way. As the great statesmen Winston Churchill
once said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all
those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

This is my first major address on foreign soil since becoming the 41st President of the United States of America. My visit here today reflects the importance I place on the relations between our two countries, the strength of our nations' ties, and the promise that our relationship holds for the future of the world.

My inauguration as President a month ago represented a tradition in the United States that speaks of both continuity and change. Continuity and change will also be the guideposts of relations between the United States and Korea in the years ahead. Where change is needed or inevitable, let us be a positive force for change. Where continuity is our mandate, let us go forward, resolute in our commitment to democracy and human rights. Throughout, let our close economic and strategic relationship be a constant.

I first came to the Asia-Pacific region during World War II more than 45 years ago. I was a teenager -- 19 years old -- and I flew torpedo bombers in the United States Navy. It was then, for the first time in my life, that I truly appreciated the cost of freedom. Believe me, I have never forgotten.

In the early years following World War II, the future of Korea and of all Asia was very much in doubt. It was a time of great struggle -- between Korea's hope for freedom and

prosperity, and the lingering legacies of war, poverty, and colonial rule.

UN ✓ On a June morning in 1950, the Communist army of the north smashed into the Republic of Korea intent on destroying your nation. Without hesitation or delay, American forces rushed to your aid. Together, Americans and Koreans fought side-by-side for your right to be sovereign and independent.

I remember the devastation of your country. Your cities lay in rubble. Your factories were in shambles. Millions of your people wandered the streets homeless and hungry.

In 1951, in the midst of the war, General Douglas MacArthur addressed a Joint Session of our Congress. He spoke of you, saying, "The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description." As he spoke those words, our Congress interrupted him with applause for you and your people.

After the war, you overcame every imaginable hardship. History will long record your story -- how in less than a generation you stepped out of the shadow of tyranny and into the light of liberty and economic opportunity.

Today Korea is a rising nation... a vibrant, dynamic nation... a nation riding the crest of the wave of the future.

Never before has the pride and the progress of your nation been more evident than last summer when this magnificent city played host to the 24th Olympic Games. Nearly 10,000 athletes from 160 nations were here. Another 3 billion people watched on television. What they saw -- from the moment Sohn Kee Chung carried the torch into your Olympic Stadium until the last embers of the Olympic flame were extinguished at the closing ceremonies -- was the most spectacular sports festival in the history of mankind.

You played host to the world, and what a truly gracious host you were. Congratulations.

Indeed, the past several years have seen the emergence of the entire Asia-Pacific region. My trip -- beginning in Japan, stopping in China, and finishing here in Korea -- stands as testimony to that reality, and what it means to the future of the world. As Mike Mansfield, the venerable former Ambassador to Japan, has said many times in recent years, "The next century will be the century of the Pacific." As usual, Mike Mansfield's words are right on the mark.

Today, Asia is one of the hubs of the earth -- economically, politically, and diplomatically. The Republic of Korea stands at the fore. You are a world-class commercial competitor; your commitment to democracy is demonstrated daily in this chamber;

✓ and your creative diplomacy -- your Nordpolitik -- is reshaping relations in and beyond the Asia-Pacific.

In my recent meetings with Prime Minister Takeshita of Japan, China's Deng Xiaoping, and with you and your political leaders, I have discussed challenging bilateral, global, and regional issues. Our discussions have been marked at all times by a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

I have come here today in that same spirit. I have no desire to lecture. The United States has no desire to dominate. Rather, I am here as the leader of a faithful friend and a dependable ally. I am here today to ensure that we continue to work together in all things.

✓ Our most important mission together is to maintain the freedom and democracy you fought so hard to win. As President, I am committed to maintaining American forces in Korea in support of our Mutual Defense Treaty as long as the threat from the North continues, and for as long as the Korean people wish them to remain. In the years ahead, we must work together to meet the evolving security needs of the Korean Peninsula.

Peace through strength is a policy that has served the security interests of our two nations well. However, deterrence alone will not be enough to ensure the comprehensive security needs of the Korean people in the years ahead. We must

✓ complement deterrence with an active diplomacy in search of dialogue with our adversaries, including North Korea.

The American people share your goal of peaceful unification on terms acceptable to the Korean people. It is for that reason that we actively support the initiatives of President Roh to build bridges to the North. I will work closely with President Roh to coordinate our efforts to draw the North toward practical and productive dialogue, to ensure that our policies are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

I have spoken of the need for vigilance, strength, and diplomacy to deter aggression and preserve peace. There is another source of strength, and it is well represented in this Assembly. The development of democratic political institutions is the surest means to build the national consensus that is the foundation of true security.

Just as we must work together to achieve better security, we must also work together to achieve greater economic prosperity.

The progress of the Korean economy is a model for developing countries throughout the world. By unleashing the diligence and creativity of your people, you have led Korea into an era of unprecedented opportunity and prosperity. Korea has become an industrial power, a major trading power, and a world-class competitor.

Korea was once called the "Hermit Kingdom." Today it deserves to be called an "Economic Kingdom." All Koreans can take pride in what you have achieved.

Yet we also cannot overlook that your economic success has created concerns in the management of our bilateral economic relations. For the American people, and for the Korean people as well, managing down our bilateral trade imbalance will be both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge will be to resist the call for protectionism; the opportunity will be to expand our economic prosperity.

We both have a lot at stake. You are our seventh largest trading partner, larger than many of our traditional European trading partners -- and our trade is growing. The United States is both Korea's largest market and largest source of supplies. We are also a leading source of the investment and technology that you will need to fuel further economic growth and development.

Korea's economy has benefitted greatly from the free flow of trade. Yet today, in many countries, there is a call for greater protectionism. I am asking you to join the United States in rejecting these short-sighted pleas.

Protectionism is fool's gold. Protectionism may seem like the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down.

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✓ I want for Korean consumers what American consumers already enjoy: high-quality, low-priced goods and services from all over the world. Protectionism will hurt the Korean consumer by cutting competition, driving up prices, and robbing them of the freedom of choice.

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As one of the world's major trading powers, the Republic of Korea sets an example for other nations who are watching what you do. As an emerging economic leader, you must shoulder important responsibilities to ensure the continued strength and stability of the global marketplace. You, the representatives of the Korean people, will face the challenge to continue to open domestic markets, to improve living standards, and to adopt appropriate international financial policies that reflect your standing as a prosperous and powerful trading nation.

The United States shares similar responsibilities for the well-being of the world economy. Our two peoples should, at all times, bear in mind that our trading system is truly an

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Today I am renewing my commitment to you, as the leader of one sovereign state to the elected, legislative body of another. I am renewing my commitment to you to work together for the good of our peoples and of all humanity.

In the years ahead, the United States will stand with you. We will stand with you against the forces of oppression, and for the forces of peace, prosperity, and independence.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the warmth and hospitality you have bestowed upon me and my wife, Barbara.

Thank you. And God bless you.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND *Nf*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks:
1) National Assembly of Korea
2) Blue House Lunch Toast
3) Ambassador's Residence, Seoul, South Korea

At James Cicconi's request, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft remarks. Apart from several minor editorial suggestions, marked directly on the attached draft remarks, Counsel's office has no objections.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity for this review.

Attachment

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02/15/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
 2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
 3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
- SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

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CICCONI	☐	☒	BOSKIN	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	ROSE	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
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REMARKS:

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no comment

RESPONSE:

XX

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 FEB 15 PM 3.55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

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February 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CICCONI

FROM; DENISE SCHWARZ
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

SUBJECT; PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS; 1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
KOREA 2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
LOG #007665

We have reviewed the remarks and attached are the proposed changes. I have copied Chriss Winston directly on these changes.

Attachment

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 02/15/89 **ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:** 5:00 pm 02/16/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
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SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

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Our most important mission together is to maintain the freedom and democracy you fought so hard to win. As President, I am committed to maintaining American forces in Korea in support of our Mutual Defense Treaty as long as the threat from the North continues, and for as long as the Korean people wish them to remain. In the years ahead, we must work together to meet the evolving security needs of the Korean Peninsula.

Peace through strength is a policy that has served the security interests of our two nations well. However, deterrence alone will not be enough to ensure the comprehensive security needs of the Korean people in the years ahead. We must

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I have spoken of the need for vigilance, strength, and diplomacy to deter aggression and preserve peace. There is another source of strength, and it is well represented in this Assembly. The development of democratic political institutions is the surest means to build the national consensus that is the foundation of true security.

Just as we must work together to achieve better security, we must also work together to achieve greater economic prosperity.

The progress of the Korean economy is an ^{inspiration} ~~model~~ for developing countries throughout the world. By unleashing the diligence and creativity of your people, you have led Korea into an era of unprecedented opportunity and prosperity. Korea has become an industrial power, a major trading power, and a world-class competitor.

Korea was once called the "Hermit Kingdom." Today it deserves to be called an "Economic ^{Miracle} Kingdom." All Koreans can take pride in what you have achieved.

Yet we also cannot overlook that your economic success has created concerns in the management of our bilateral economic relations. For the American people, and for the Korean people as well, ~~managing down~~ ^{reducing} our bilateral trade imbalance will be both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge will be to resist the call for protectionism; the opportunity will be to expand our economic prosperity.

We both have a lot at stake. You are our seventh largest trading partner, larger than many of our traditional European trading partners -- and our trade is growing. [The United States is ~~both~~ Korea's largest market, ~~and largest source of supplies~~. We are also a leading source of the investment and technology that you will need to fuel further economic growth and development.

Korea's economy has benefitted greatly from the free flow of trade. Yet today, in many countries, there is a call for greater protectionism. I am asking you to join the United States in rejecting these short-sighted pleas.

Protectionism is fool's gold. Protectionism may seem like the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down.

✓
Not true!
Japan is
Korea's largest
supplier.

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As one of the world's major trading powers, the Republic of Korea sets an example for other nations who are watching what you do. As an emerging economic leader, you must shoulder important responsibilities to ensure the continued strength and stability of the global marketplace. You, the representatives of the Korean people, will face the challenge to continue to open domestic markets, to improve living standards, and to adopt appropriate international financial ^{and exchange rate} policies that reflect your standing as a prosperous and powerful trading nation.

The United States shares similar responsibilities for the well-being of the world economy. Our two peoples should, at all times, bear in mind that our trading system is truly an

international "joint venture," and that we share a special responsibility for its continued success.

My friends, and yes, you are my friends, I began today by talking about my inauguration as the new President of the United States just a few short weeks ago. The tradition of passing the torch of leadership from one American president to another is a time when we celebrate the strength of our democracy and a time when we renew our commitment to the values on which it is built.

Today I am renewing my commitment to you, as the leader of one sovereign state to the elected, legislative body of another. I am renewing my commitment to you to work together for the good of our peoples and of all humanity.

In the years ahead, the United States will stand with you. We will stand with you against the forces of oppression, and for the forces of peace, prosperity, and independence.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the warmth and hospitality you have bestowed upon me and my wife, Barbara.

Thank you. And God bless you.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 02/15/89ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 pm 02/16/89SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

1. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
 2. BLUE HOUSE LUNCH TOAST
 3. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
- SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SUNUNU	☐	☒	NEWMAN	☐	☐
SCOWCROFT	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	STUDDERT	☐	☒
BATES	☒	☐	UNTERMAYER	☐	☐
BREEDEN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☒	☐
CARD	☐	☒	WINSTON	☐	☒
CICCONI	☐	☒	BOSKIN	☒	☐
DEMAREST	☒	☐	ROSE	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐
GRAY	☒	☐		☐	☐
HAGIN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, x2930) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/16, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 FEB 15 PM 3:55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

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Republic of Korea, and distinguished guests:

I'm honored by your invitation to address this body today.
I stand in your Assembly as Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and
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America's support, friendship, and respect for the Republic of
Korea and its people.

As a former member of the United States House of
Representatives, I take particular pleasure in coming to this
legislative chamber where the freely elected representatives of
Korea's own democratic success story meet to debate and to
implement the will of the Korean people.

I know that there must be times when this body, just like
the United States Congress, is full of sound and fury, noise and
acrimony. But that is the nature of democracy, and we wouldn't
have it any other way. As the great statesmen Winston Churchill
once said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all
those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

This is my first major address on foreign soil since becoming the 41st President of the United States of America. My visit here today reflects the importance I place on the relations between our two countries, the strength of our nations' ties, and the promise that our relationship holds for the future of the world.

My inauguration as President a month ago represented a tradition in the United States that speaks of both continuity and change. Continuity and change will also be the guideposts of relations between the United States and Korea in the years ahead. Where change is needed or inevitable, let us be a positive force for change. Where continuity is our mandate, let us go forward, resolute in our commitment to democracy and human rights. Throughout, let our close economic and strategic relationship be a constant.

I first came to the Asia-Pacific region during World War II more than 45 years ago. I was a teenager -- 19 years old -- and I flew torpedo bombers in the United States Navy. It was then, for the first time in my life, that I truly appreciated the cost of freedom. Believe me, I have never forgotten.

In the early years following World War II, the future of Korea and of all Asia was very much in doubt. It was a time of great struggle -- between Korea's hope for freedom and

prosperity, and the lingering legacies of war, poverty, and colonial rule.

On a June morning in 1950, the Communist army of the north smashed into the Republic of Korea intent on destroying your nation. Without hesitation or delay, American forces rushed to your aid. Together, Americans and Koreans fought side-by-side for your right to be sovereign and independent.

I remember the devastation of your country. Your cities lay in rubble. Your factories were in shambles. Millions of your people wandered the streets homeless and hungry.

In 1951, in the midst of the war, General Douglas MacArthur addressed a Joint Session of our Congress. He spoke of you, saying, "The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description." As he spoke those words, our Congress interrupted him with applause for you and your people.

After the war, you overcame every imaginable hardship. History will long record your story -- how in less than a generation you stepped out of the shadow of tyranny and into the light of liberty and economic opportunity.

Today Korea is a rising nation... a vibrant, dynamic nation... a nation riding the crest of the wave of the future.

Never before has the pride and the progress of your nation been more evident than last summer when this magnificent city played host to the 24th Olympic Games. Nearly 10,000 athletes from 160 nations were here. Another 3 billion people watched on television. What they saw -- from the moment Sohn Kee Chung carried the torch into your Olympic Stadium until the last embers of the Olympic flame were extinguished at the closing ceremonies -- was the most spectacular sports festival in the history of mankind.

Do we want to offend Los Angeles ~?

You played host to the world, and what a truly gracious host you were. Congratulations.

Is it China or the PRC? Indeed, the past several years have seen the emergence of the entire Asia-Pacific region. My trip -- beginning in Japan, stopping in China, and finishing here in Korea -- stands as testimony to that reality, and what it means to the future of the world. As Mike Mansfield, the venerable former Ambassador to Japan, has said many times in recent years, "The next century will be the century of the Pacific." As usual, Mike Mansfield's words are right on the mark.

Today, Asia is one of the hubs of the earth -- economically, politically, and diplomatically. The Republic of Korea stands at the fore. You are a world-class commercial competitor; your commitment to democracy is demonstrated daily in this chamber;

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word missing

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*China
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Used on Pg. 4 —
Is there a reason we use twice?

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(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
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to be ✓
1 2

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, x2930) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 02/16, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

No Comment

61:00 9183180

61:00 9183180

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 FEB 15 PM 3:55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
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Protectionism is fool's gold. Protectionism may seem like the easy way out, but it is really the quickest way down.

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In the years ahead, the United States will stand with you. We will stand with you against the forces of oppression, and for the forces of peace, prosperity, and independence.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the warmth and hospitality you have bestowed upon me and my wife, Barbara.

Thank you. And God bless you.

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1989 FEB 15 PM 3:55

(McIntyre)
February 15, 1989
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF KOREA
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
FEBRUARY 27, 1989

Mr. Speaker, Members of the National Assembly of the
Republic of Korea, and distinguished guests:

I'm honored by your invitation to address this body today.
I stand in your Assembly as Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and
Reagan have stood before me. And I reaffirm, as they did,
America's support, friendship, and respect for the Republic of
Korea and its people.

As a former member of the United States House of
Representatives, I take particular pleasure in coming to this
legislative chamber where the freely elected representatives of
Korea's own democratic success story meet to debate and to
implement the will of the Korean people.

I know that there must be times when this body, just like
the United States Congress, is full of sound and fury, noise and
acrimony. But that is the nature of democracy, and we wouldn't
have it any other way. As the great statesmen Winston Churchill
once said, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all
those other forms that have been tried from time to time."

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This is my first major address on foreign soil since becoming the 41st President of the United States of America. My visit here today reflects the importance I place on the relations between our two countries, the strength of our nations' ties, and the promise that our relationship holds for the future of the world.

My inauguration as President a month ago represented a tradition in the United States that speaks of both continuity and change. Continuity and change will also be the guideposts of relations between the United States and Korea in the years ahead. Where change is needed or inevitable, let us be a positive force for change. Where continuity is our mandate, let us go forward, resolute in our commitment to democracy and human rights. Throughout, let our close economic and strategic relationship be a constant.

I first came to the Asia-Pacific region during World War II more than 45 years ago. I was a teenager -- 19 years old -- and I flew torpedo bombers in the United States Navy. It was then, for the first time in my life, that I truly appreciated the cost of freedom. Believe me, I have never forgotten.

In the early years following World War II, the future of Korea and of all Asia was very much in doubt. It was a time of great struggle -- between Korea's hope for freedom and

prosperity, and the lingering legacies of war, poverty, and colonial rule.

On a June morning in 1950, the Communist army of the north smashed into the Republic of Korea intent on destroying your nation. Without hesitation or delay, American forces rushed to your aid. Together, Americans and Koreans fought side-by-side for your right to be sovereign and independent.

I remember the devastation of your country. Your cities lay in rubble. Your factories were in shambles. Millions of your people wandered the streets homeless and hungry.

In 1951, in the midst of the war, General Douglas MacArthur addressed a Joint Session of our Congress. He spoke of you, saying, "The magnificence of the courage and fortitude of the Korean people defies description." As he spoke those words, our Congress interrupted him with applause for you and your people.

After the war, you overcame every imaginable hardship. History will long record your story -- how in less than a generation you stepped out of the shadow of tyranny and into the light of liberty and economic opportunity.

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