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THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SEOUL, KOREA

V I S I T O R' S H A N D B O O K

Administrative Office

MARCH 1993

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

(When calling from a Seoul City telephone)

United States Embassy	397-4114
Embassy Administrative Office	397-4114, Ext. 4126
Embassy Security Office	397-4114, Ext. 4161
Embassy Nurse (office) (home)	397-4114, Ext. 4140/4347 736-8132
U.S. Army Hospital	
121st Hospital	7917-3545
Emergency Room	7917-5450/5545
AMBULANCE	7917-6232/6139
Embassy Dispatcher	
(working hours)	397-4114, Ext. 4456/4458
(after working hours)	397-4114, Ext. 4421/4423
Embassy Duty Officer	
Saturdays (0900-1300)	397-4114, Ext. 4401
All other hours	397-4114, Ext. 4412/4411
U.S. Embassy Association	397-4114, Ext. 4473
U.S. Trade Center	397-4114, Ext. 4509
U.S. Agriculture Trade Office	397-4114, Ext. 4188
U.S. Information Services	397-4114, Ext. 4436
TRAVEL UNIT	
Delta Airlines	397-4114, Ext. 4135
Northwest Airlines	397-4114, Ext. 4370
United Airlines	397-4114, Ext. 4270
B. B. Travel	397-4114, Ext. 4629
Yongsan (8th Army) Telephone Operator	7913-1113

AMERICAN MISSION PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

<u>NAME AND TITLE</u>	<u>EXTENSION</u>
Raymond F. Burghardt Charge d'Affaires	4200
John R. Ratigan Acting Deputy Chief of Mission	4203
John Fredenburg Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs	4436
Frank J. Manganiello Minister-Counselor for Administrative Affairs	4126
John Child Minister-Counselor for Agricultural Affairs	4297
Richard A. Morford Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs	4194
John R. Ratigan Minister-Counselor for Consular Affairs	4429
E. Mason Hendrickson Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs	4210
Robert Connan Counselor for Commercial Affairs	4535
Michael Delaney Acting Counselor for Scientific & Technological Affairs	4159
Dennis Obermayer Special Assistant to the Ambassador	4263
William McKinney Defense and Army Attache	4184
Paul W. O'Brien Customs Attache	4232
Robert L. Butler Immigration and Naturalization Service Attache	4279
Dannie West Drug Enforcement Administration Attache	4390
Bernhard B. Collins Regional Security Officer	4161
Sheila Marley Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Service	4308
Colonel Keith L. Young Chief, JUSMAG/K	7915-6077

NOTE: For all four-digit extensions, dial "397-" first.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

American Embassy Office Buildings (Seoul)

Chancery	82 Sejong-ro, Chongro-ku
USIS	10, Namyoung-dong, Yongsan-ku
Seoul American Center	63, Euljiro 1-ka, Chung-ku
GSO Compound	10 Namyoung-dong, Yongsan-ku

American Embassy Residences (Seoul)

Compound I	10-1 Chung-dong, Choong-ku
Compound II	49-1 Songhyon-dong, Chongro-ku
South Post Compound	Yongsan-dong 6-ka, Yongsan-ku

EMBASSY SERVICES

OFFICE HOURS: Embassy-Monday thru Friday, 0830 to 1700 hours
USIS-Monday thru Friday, 0830 to 1730 hours

Medical Services

Please feel free to contact the Embassy Health Unit (extension 4140/4347) for advice and/or assistance at any time during your stay in Korea. After working hours you may locate the Embassy nurse by calling the Marine Guard on duty (extension 4412).

In the event of a serious accident or other medical problem you are asked to contact the Embassy Nurse if at all possible. However, should this not be feasible, the U.S. Army Hospital (121st Evacuation Hospital) on South Post staffs an Emergency Room with a U.S.-trained physician available 24 hours a day.

Check Cashing

Personal checks up to \$200 may be cashed at the Embassy Cashier (first floor) between the hours of 1030 and 1430, Monday through Friday. Traveler's Checks are available also.

The Embassy Club on South Post, Yongsan, also has check cashing facilities. The club cashier is open seven days a week between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. TDY personnel must present their temporary membership cards or passports for identification. TDY personnel may cash checks up to \$100.

Embassy Cafeteria

The Embassy Cafeteria, located on the first floor of the Chancery, is open from 0730 to 0930 hours and 1130 to 1330 hours, Monday through Friday. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are available.

U.S. Embassy Association

By request to the Administrative Office, a temporary membership for this Association may be obtained which will enable you to use the Embassy Commissary on Compound II (near the Chancery). It is open Tuesday through Friday from 1000 to 1900 hours, on Saturday from 1000 to 1800 hours and Sunday from 1200 to 1700.

EMBASSY SERVICES

(Cont'd)

The Association operates indoor tennis courts which may be reserved by calling extension 4160 between the hours of 0800 to 2400.

The Association operates the Embassy Club on South Post at Yongsan Garrison and your temporary membership permits you use of this Club. The Club is open seven days a week, with lunch service in the dining room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. There is a lounge as well as complete dining services.

U.S./A.P.O. Mail

Visiting U.S. Government employees on TDY orders are authorized to use the A.P.O. facilities for letter mail. The Mail Room is located on the first floor of the Chancery. All letters must have the appropriate U.S. postage affixed before mailing. U.S. Government employee and personnel on official travel orders are extended authorization to use the Eighth U.S. Army APO facilities on Yongsan Main Post. Packages destined for other APO addresses or stateside can be mailed from there. Weight and size restrictions do impose limitations. Check with the APO or the Embassy Mail Room for information on size and weight restrictions. There are two wrapping/packaging facilities located on Yongsan main post, one across from the Friendship Arcade and another inside the Arcade itself. Wrapping services for APO packages are also available on Yongsan, South Post. Most merchants and shops will provide packing and wrapping service if requested.

Airline Reservations

Northwest, Delta and United Airlines have offices in the Embassy (4th floor) which are open for business each working day from 0900 through 1700 hours. Airline reservations can be handled through the travel unit and your onward flight reservations also can be reconfirmed. Northwest and United Airlines have branch ticket offices in the Chosun Hotel and other international airlines also have representation in the immediate area around the Chosun. Downtown airline ticket offices are usually open until late evening and all day Saturday.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Civil Defense

The Korean Government holds periodic Civil Defense Drills that are usually scheduled on the fifteenth or sixteenth of each month. The drills begin with a warning siren which signals a ten-minute preparatory period in which everyone is required to clear streets and take cover in a building or underground shelter. Automobiles are pulled to the side of the street and abandoned during the drill. The all-clear is usually sounded about a half-hour after the initial signal.

Local Currency

The monetary unit in Korea is the Won. The present official exchange rate is approximately 790 Won to US \$1.00 and is subject to change.

Newspapers

Two Korean/English dailies, The Korea Herald and The Korea Times, are published in Seoul. Most hotels have copies of these newspapers available for their guests. In addition, The Pacific Stars and Stripes is distributed daily in Seoul and a copy can usually be obtained at the Chancery Cafeteria.

Radio and Television

The American Forces Korea Network (AFKN) operates extensive broadcasting facilities throughout Korea. The T.V. Network in Seoul broadcasts daily on Channel #2, from early morning to after midnight. AFKN TV offers both live and videotaped programming, featuring the latest news coverage via satellite from the U.S. NBC, ABC and CNN news programs are broadcast live four times daily at approximately 7:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 6:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. AFKN AM and FM radio broadcast five-minute news and sports casts on the hour, with expanded casts on AM radio at 0630, 1200, and 1800. AM broadcasts are located at 55 KHZ, and FM stereo is transmitted at 102.7 MHZ.

GENERAL INFORMATION
(Cont'd)

Military R&R Hotel

The newly constructed 277-room Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan South Post replaces the Naija Hotel as the military R&R facility. It is a full service hotel featuring modern accommodations, five restaurants, shops, and swimming pool.

Taxis

Local taxis may be hailed on the street or found at designated taxi stands in the center of the city. These cabs are metered, and payment is in Won. Tipping is not necessary, but don't expect small change to be returned. A local taxi may not drive onto the military base; they may take you to your destination on Compounds I, II and Yongsan Embassy Housing (through gate 52 only). While you may encounter a driver that speaks English, it is usually helpful (and sometimes necessary) to carry a slip of paper with your destination written in Korean.

The military base operates a fleet of taxis called "KOAX taxis". There is a stand beside the post exchange and one in front of the commissary on base. They can also be reached at 7918-5114 from off the base, or 738-5113/5 from on post." These cabs operate on meters and payment is in U.S. dollars. If you take a trip which goes through one of the Namsan tunnels, you will be asked to pay the 100 Won toll.

Bear in mind that there are no left turns in the center of the city. If it seems that you are being "taken for a ride" or "going in circles," you may well be. However, in order for the taxi to head in the right direction, this is often necessary.

Tipping

Although tipping traditionally has not been practiced in Korea, tourism is establishing the custom. If a service charge hasn't been added to a check, a ten percent tip is appropriate. Likewise, if someone performs a personal service for you, a small tip is in order.

NOTES ON KOREAN HISTORY AND POLITICS

Geography

Korea is a mountainous peninsula, about 966 kilometers (600 mi.) long and 217 kilometers (135 mi.) wide, located in northeastern Asia and projecting southeast from China. Japan lies about 193 kilometers (120 mi.) to the east across the Sea of Japan. The northern and eastern sections of the peninsula are rugged and mountainous. Good harbors are found only on the western and southern coasts.

Seoul, the capital, is in the west-central part of the peninsula, less than 48 kilometers (30 mi.) from the demilitarized zone separating North Korean military forces from those of the U.N. Command.

History

Korea was first unified in the seventh century by the Shilla Dynasty, one of Korea's three ancient kingdoms. Although culturally and diplomatically affiliated with China during the Shilla and subsequent Koryo and Yi Dynasties, Korea developed its own unique cultural identity and retained its sovereignty until annexed by Japan in 1910.

At the end of World War II, pursuant to an agreement among the Allies reached at Potsdam in 1945, the Korean Peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel for administrative convenience in accepting the surrender of Japanese forces on the peninsula. The north and south became Soviet and U.S. zones of military occupation, respectively. The division was intended, at least by the United States, to be temporary, pending the organization of nationwide free elections.

In the face of adamant Communist refusal to permit U.N.-supervised elections in North Korea, the Republic of Korea was established south of the 38th parallel on August 15, 1948, under U.N. auspices. The Soviets, in turn, established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September of that year. The United States withdrew its military forces from Korea in 1949.

NOTES ON KOREAN HISTORY AND POLITICS
(Cont'd)

On June 25, 1950, North Korean armed forces launched an attack on the Republic of Korea across the 38th parallel. In response, the United Nations, in accordance with the terms of its charter, engaged in its first collective action through the establishment of the U.N. Command, to which 16 member nations sent troops and other assistance. At the request of the Secretary General, this international effort was led by the United States which contributed the largest contingent. The conflict was prolonged by the entry on the North Korean side of Chinese Communist forces in October 1950, but an armistice to end the hostilities was finally signed by the North Koreans, Chinese, and the U.N. Command on July 27, 1953.

The armistice agreement called for an early conference of the parties concerned to find a political solution to the problem of the division of Korea, a division left unchanged by the conflict. A conference was convened in Geneva in April 1954, but after 7 weeks of debate no agreement was reached and the conference ended.

Postwar Developments

Rhee Syngman served as President of the Republic of Korea from its establishment in 1948 until April 1960, when university students, rioting in protest against irregularities in the presidential election of that year, forced him to step down. National elections were held in July 1960, and the new National Assembly named Chang Myon Prime Minister. Chang's government was overthrown in May, 1961, by a bloodless military coup led by then-Major General Park Chung Hee.

The military government remained in power for more than 2 and one-half years. In the spring of 1962, General Park became Acting President. After retiring from the army, he was elected President in 1963 and re-elected in 1967, 1971 and 1978. The Park era brought many benefits to the Korean people, including extraordinary economic growth and modernization. President Park was assassinated in October 1979.

NOTES ON KOREAN HISTORY AND POLITICS

(Cont'd)

Recent Developments

National demonstrations in June 1987 against the military-dominated regime of President Chun Doo Hwan changed Korea politically. The government agreed to the protesters' demands for a direct presidential election system and a new constitution negotiated between the government party and opposition parties. The new constitution went into effect, was approved by referendum in October 1987. Direct presidential elections were held in December 1987, with the government party candidate winning over a split opposition. President Roh Tae Woo was inaugurated February 25, 1988. The same day, the new constitution, promising significant new protections of human rights and democratic forms. In April 1988, the three opposition parties collectively won a majority of seats in the National Assembly. In January, 1990 the government party announced that it would merge with the second and third largest opposition parties. This merger formally took place on February 9, 1990, forming a new majority party, the Democratic Liberal Party.

Economy

Korea's economic growth over the past 20 years has been spectacular. The country has advanced in a single generation from one of the world's poorest nations to the threshold of being fully industrialized. Korea has achieved this despite its high population density, lack of natural resources, and the need to maintain one of the world's largest military establishments. Korea's greatest asset is its industrious, literate people.

U.S.-Korea Relations

Korea is of great strategic importance to the United States, for the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula is vital to maintaining the peace and security of Northeast Asia. Under the 1954 Mutual Security Treaty, the United States has undertaken to help the Republic of Korea defend itself from external aggression. To carry out this commitment, the United States stations some 40,000 military personnel in Korea. To coordinate U.S. defense operations with those of the 600,000-strong Korean armed forces, the United States and Korea established a Combined Forces Command headed by the Commander of U.S. Forces, Korea.

ETIQUETTE IN KOREA

Korean people are quite understanding and will certainly judge you by your intentions rather than inadvertent breeches of etiquette. There are, however, some general guidelines which will stand you in good stead if observed during your stay in Korea:

1. The Korean National Anthem is played at 5:00 p.m. during November thru March and at 6:00 p.m. during April thru October in various parts of the city. If you are in the underground arcades or shopping malls when the anthem is played, please stand quietly at attention.
2. It is considered a personal affront to touch another person unless that person is a relative or close personal friend.
3. One should never write a living person's name in red; this indicates a deceased person. However, a Korean name seal (chop) is always printed in red.
4. The Korean surname precedes the given names and it is the surname you use when addressing a Korean. Fortunately, Asians exchange business cards upon meeting which will help you keep the various Kims, Lees, Parks and Ohs separate in your mind. You should be prepared to exchange cards if you have a supply with you.
5. Koreans will shake hands with Westerners when they meet; the traditional Korean greeting is to bow from the waist in a slow flowing motion, keeping the back straight, the chin tucked in, and the palms on the hips.
6. Koreans believe that direct eye contact during conversations is daring and out of politeness they concentrate only on the conversation, avoiding eye contact.
7. When passing a gift, certificate or any other object to anyone, both hands are always used. Passing with one hand is considered poor manners.
8. When addressing a Korean, you should always use his/her title, position, trade, profession, scholastic rank, or some honorific form such as "teacher." If you do not know any other title to use, you should preface the surname with Mr., Mrs., or Miss.
9. Shoes should always be removed when entering a Korean home or temple.
10. When putting shoes back on at a temple, never sit on the steps with your back to the area of worship.

ETIQUETTE IN KOREA
(Cont'd)

11. When eating Korean food, use chopsticks, spoons, or even a toothpick if at all possible. Koreans consider handling food with bare fingers indelicate.
12. Unless you have finished eating, chopsticks or spoon should be rested on top of a dish or bowl. When you have finished eating, the chopsticks or spoon may be laid on the table indicating that you have completed the meal.
13. Don't be impatient when a Korean pretends to understand you but obviously doesn't; he is being polite. Be patient and try again.
14. Do use good American manners; the Koreans are very understanding and appreciate good manners of any culture.

CHURCH SERVICES GUIDE

Anglican Episcopal Cathedral: Sunday 9:00 a.m. (English)
Cathedral of Our Lady and St. Nicolas.

Address: 3 Jeong Dong, (Right next to Toksu Palace across the street from the City Hall)

Telephone: 738-6597

Catholic Cathedral (Myong-dong): Saturday 6 and 7 p.m.
Sunday 7,9,10,11 and 12 a.m., 4,5,6 and 7 p.m. (Korean)

Address: Myong-dong, Choong-ku

Telephone: 774-3890

Catholic International Parish of St. Francis (Franciscan Friary)

Address: 17 Jeong-dong (Behind the old MBC-TV Building)

Telephone: 753-4690, 753-4638, 752-3096

Conventual Francis: Saturday 17:00, Sunday 11:00 (English)

Address: Hannam-dong (across the street from Hannam Village)

Telephone: 793-2070

Military Chapels on Eighth Army Yongsan Post

There are two chapels located on the Yongsan Eighth Army Base, Main Post Memorial Chapel and South Post Chapel. Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist and other denominational services are offered. Current information on service schedules can be secured by telephoning Yongsan Memorial Chapel at 725-8176, Yongsan South Post Chapel at 738-4044.

Full Gospel Church: Sunday 9 and 11 p.m. (English)

Address: #1-20 Yeoido-dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu

Telephone: 782-4851/5

International Lutheran Church: Sunday 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. (English)

Address: #8-43, Han Nam Dong, Yongsan Ku, Seoul (just north of Hannam Supermarket)

Telephone: 794-6274

CHURCH SERVICES GUIDE
(Cont'd)

Islam Mosque: Friday 1 p.m. (Arabic, Korean and English)
Address: #732-21, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu (Itaewon Area)
Telephone: 793-6908

Jewish Services

Address: Eighth Army Religious Retreat Center (Located on Namsan next to the Namsan Mansion Apartments)
Telephone: 738-9917

Seoul International Baptist Church:
Sunday 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. (English)
Address: #1-712, Yeoido Dong, Yeong Deung Po Ku
(Just across the street from the Unha Apartment)
Telephone: 782-6268

Mormon Church: English
Sunday 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Sacrament Service 10:15 a.m.
Address: #103-1, Sindang 6-dong, Chung-ku, (3-story, red brick building opposite the Cho-heung bank on Tosanno)
Directions from Subway: Get off at the Shindang station (#6) on the green line. Go west on wangshimni-gil (toward Tongdaemun stadium), then left at the overpass to the first traffic light. The Church will be on the left.
Telephone: 232-3637 (Sunday), 232-1441 (Weekdays)

Seoul Union Church: Protestant English-Speaking Congregation
Sunday 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. (English)
Telephone : 333-7393

Seventh-Day Adventist Church: Saturday 9:20 a.m. (English)
Address: #287-1, Hwikyung 2-dong, Dongdaemun-gu
Telephone: 244-1275, 7521, 243-1658

Young-Nak Presbyterian Church:
Sunday 10 and 11:30 a.m. (English and Korean)
Address: #2-69, Jeon-dong, Jung-gu
Telephone: 273-6301/18

Chogyesa Temple: Everyday 10 a.m. (Korean)
Address: Kyonji-dong, Chongno-gu (Near Emb. Housing Compound II)
Telephone: 734-1506

DINING OUT IN SEOUL

Military restaurants and the U.S. Embassy Club, as well as the U.S. Embassy Snack Bar, are reliable places to eat. All are under routine sanitary inspection. Water in all Embassy and Military facilities is safe for drinking.

However, when eating out on the local economy, the following guidelines should be observed:

1. Food can be considered safe if it is cooked thoroughly and served hot if meant to be eaten hot, or served cold if meant to be eaten cold.
2. Preparation of green, leafy salads and raw vegetables is unreliable. It is best to avoid them. (Night soil is still being used in Korea.)
3. Fruits should be peeled before eating.
4. Bypass cream filled pastries, local milk and ice cream.
5. All raw or pickled fish, especially shellfish, should be strictly AVOIDED.
6. The city water supply is not consistently safe for drinking. Stick to bottled beverages or hot tea or coffee.

It is possible to have a delightful and enriching experience by sampling the local cuisine. Prices for western meals tend to be expensive and vary according to the type of restaurant chosen. If you are concerned about the amount of your total bill, it is best to check with the manager or cashier before you order.

Western-style restaurants are found in all of the major hotels, as well as scattered about the city. In addition to European-type food, there are several Japanese and Chinese restaurants. Korean restaurants, of course, are plentiful and there are several located near the U.S. Embassy which are enjoyed by U.S. personnel. Because of frequent changes in management, quality, etc., it is advisable to seek a verbal recommendation from someone familiar with the current status of various eating establishments.

NOTE: The larger hotels, restaurants, and night clubs in Korea will apply a 10% value added tax and 10% service charge to your bill.

SHOPPING IN SEOUL

Bargaining is customary in Korea and you should make the attempt in any store other than the department stores. Although fixed prices are becoming more common place, most shop owners expect to give a little.

The Korean Government has become sensitive to the widescale export of antiques and common artifacts and has imposed stringent restrictions on taking them out of the country. If you are buying an antique, be sure to check whether or not export is permitted.

The downtown area has several large modern department stores as well as many small stores of all descriptions. So Gong Arcade (underground shopping area between the Plaza and Chosun Hotels and Myong Dong) is convenient for those who do not have the time to venture further. Many of the sales persons speak some English. However, the prices tend to be a bit higher than those in the outlying areas.

Itaewon, about ten minutes drive by taxi from the hotel area downtown, caters to the American buyer. The stores carry many manufacturers' outlet goods of clothing and tennis shoes. There is also a large section of antique shops that feature antique chests and reproductions. This is the principal shopping area for the American military community. Prices are reasonable and almost everyone in the shops speaks English.

Insa-Dong, commonly known as "Mary's Alley." is located in the downtown area, almost directly behind the U.S. Embassy. There are many stores featuring chests, pottery and paintings (both old and new). Prices here tend to be high, but the quality is generally very good. Many Americans browse here in order to compare the quality of items they may purchase in other locations.

Namdaemun, or South Gate Market, is well worth a visit if time allows. There are good buys to be found in lacquerware, leather goods, silk beads, ceramics and handicrafts. There is an underground arcade which offers further possibilities.

Tongdaemun, or East Gate Market, is said to be the largest market of its type in Asia. It is the oldest and by far the largest market in Seoul and has both enclosed and outside sections. Virtually everything to be bought in Korea can be found at this market. However, do not expect to see it all, and do look for landmarks while wandering through the narrow aisles. It is easy to get lost in the maze of alleys and crowded shops. Things here will be cheaper than in Itaewon, but it will take you longer to find what you want. Also, you will have to bargain in Korean or use sign language or an interpreter to buy things here.

BEST BUYS

Chests

The price of Korean chests has risen rapidly, but a good buy is still possible. True antiques are difficult to find and costly. Many chests that are basically old will have repairs of new wood and others are completely rebuilt with old wood. There are, however, many attractive reproductions. Most chest shops will arrange packing and shipping.

Brass

Everything from ashtrays to bedsteads is made in brass and the prices are very reasonable. Most of the Korean brass items are sand cast. A few items such as Buddhist gongs will be hammered or turned and are therefore more expensive. If you wish your purchase lacquered so that it will not tarnish, the shops will usually do this for you at no extra charge.

Leather

Leather purses, wallets and belts are particularly good buys in Korea. Eelskin is featured in a variety of shades and designs.

Lacquer Ware

Good quality lacquerware is expensive but distinctive. Korea is famous for its black lacquer furniture inlaid with intricate mother of pearl designs. Examples of this craft are also available in small items such as cigarette boxes and vases. Prices will depend on quality of construction and finish, intricacy of design and where you buy it. It might be wise to look first in the hotel arcades as the quality there may outweigh cheaper prices elsewhere.

Jewelry

Smoky topaz (quartz), amethyst, white jade and some agate stones such as carnelian are good buys in Korea. Stone cutting is excellent, but settings should be examined carefully. The gold plating used in Korea wears off quickly and it is advisable to pay for a gold setting rather than buy the inexpensive plate. Amethyst is usually set in "silver" which is of relatively poor quality. Be careful when buying amethyst as the quality, and therefore the value, varies considerably with the difference in color and quantity of flaws. Unset stones also are available and the quality of stone cutting and faceting is hard to beat.

BEST BUYS (Cont'd)

Luggage

Excellent quality luggage and handbags can be found in most hotel arcades and in Itaewon. The prices vary but generally are less expensive than in the United States.

Silk

Korean silk is well worth investigation. East Gate Market is unrivaled in variety and prices. Hotel arcades are good sources of such items as neckties and scarves as well as yard goods.

Ginseng

Korean Ginseng, thought by many to be the world's best, is available in almost every conceivable form, from tea and wine to candy and shampoo. Ginseng is a major export item for Korea and the prices and quality are controlled by the government. You will find ginseng stores in the underground shopping arcades downtown.

Paintings and Pottery

Comparison shopping in the hotel arcades, major shopping areas and department stores is essential for these items.

Clothing Items

Korea has become a major world supplier of ready-to-wear clothing and tennis shoes. Samples and seconds are available for a fraction of what you would pay for them in the U.S. When shopping for clothing, look at the label. If it is a foreign label and has no Korean writing on it, the proportions will be for the western figure (with the exception of those items made for export to Japan) and sizing will be regular American or European. Since some of these items may be seconds, it is wise to check them over carefully. Often the problem is minor.

Unfortunately, many trademarked items sold in Seoul are counterfeit and, therefore, subject to confiscation by U.S. Customs upon entry into the United States either from personal luggage or packages mailed through the U.S. postal system. Examples: Polo, Lacoste, Members Only, Cabbage Patch, Gucci, LV (Louis Vuitton), Nike, Reebok, and Apple Computer. Because new trademark violations are discovered periodically, it is impossible to compile a comprehensive list of goods which may be confiscated.

In addition, entry regulations pertaining to different items may vary. Visitors would be prudent, however, to avoid large quantity purchases of any trademarked items in Korea. Questions regarding U.S. customs regulations may be directed to the Customs Attache Office, Embassy extension 4232.

Tennis and running shoes, as well as sweat suits and jogging suits, (both ready-made and made-to-order) are great bargains. Sweaters, blouses, jeans, jackets, and coats are also good buys. These items can be found in abundance in Itaewon. There are several shops in Itaewon that feature silk dresses and blouses.

Clothes and shoes can be custom made with varying degrees of success. It is best to patronize a shop recommended by fellow Americans.

NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST

Panmunjom

Panmunjom, 35 miles northwest of Seoul, serves as a stark reminder of a divided country still living under the threat of military conflict. An Armistice Agreement ending the Korean War was signed here on July 27, 1953, by representatives of the United Nations Command, North Korea, and China. In the middle of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is Freedom House, the site of the military armistice commission meetings which continue the south-north dialogue. Briefings and tours of the area can be arranged by an Embassy control officer. Organized tours are available through the USO and the Moyer Recreation Center.

Korea House

Korea House is an old-style government-run mansion where programs of traditional folk dancing and music are presented on weekends. Everything is free except the traditional Korean food, and guests are welcome to view one or more of the many documentary films kept in the library.

East and South Gates

The city walls, once linked to the gates, are no longer seen, and both South and East Gates stand alone in the streets. South Gate was the main gateway through the wall that surrounded Seoul and is now designated as National Treasure No. 1.

East Gate, surrounded by two-fold stone walls, is said to have been designed as a rampart to help guards to defend the city from outside invaders. As a result of the rapid expansion of the city, East Gate is now close to the center of the city.

Duksoo Palace

This palace is close to the major hotels downtown and is an excellent example of Seoul's unique blend of old and new. Duksoo Palace was the home of the last king of the Yi Dynasty, Kojong. The palace grounds are now a public park, but the buildings remain just as they were when occupied by members of the royal family.

National Museum of Modern Art

This consists of two buildings behind the Duksoo Palace gardens which house a permanent art collection and rotating exhibits.

Kyongbok Palace

The palace was built in 1395 by the founder of the Yi Dynasty, King Taejo. Within the compound of the palace are many graceful buildings. Stone pagodas, stone lamps, and many other cultural heritages collected from across the country are kept in the courtyard of this palace.

National Museum

Located adjacent to the Kyongbok Palace grounds, this museum has an outstanding collection of pottery, paintings, sculpture, artifacts, porcelain, and famous celadon, representing 5,000 years of Korean art history.

Folk Museum

Located behind the Kyongbok Palace, this museum shows traditional costumes and furniture. It is an excellent exhibit for learning about the traditional culture of Korea.

Changdok Palace and Secret Gardens

This palace, residence of the last queens of Korea, consists of several old buildings with beautifully landscaped grounds that include gardens, ponds, and pavilions.

National Theater, National Classical Music Institute, and Sejong Cultural Center

The National Theater offers performances by the National Orchestra, opera companies and visiting artists. The National Classical Music Institute houses a large collection of ancient musical instruments and is dedicated to preserving and teaching the traditional classical music and folk dances. The Sejong Cultural Center in downtown Seoul offers theater and dance performances, and well as exhibition halls and restaurants. Please check with the Personnel Office for information on scheduled performances.

Night Life

Myong-dong and Itaewon are the centers of Seoul where nightclubs and restaurants provide the city's night life. The Walker Hill tourist complex, about 30 minutes from downtown Seoul, features five luxury hotels, many private villas, a posh night club, bars, Turkish baths, swimming pools, and a variety of indoor and outdoor sports and recreation. It also is the scene of one of the liveliest gambling casinos in Asia.

Seoul Tower

Located atop Namsan Hill, it is the highest telecommunication tower in the Orient at 480 meters above sea-level. The observation deck commands a magnificent panoramic view of Seoul and is one of the city's main tourist attractions.

Korean Folk Village

Just outside Suwon offers a unique glimpse into Korea's past. Here in the farm houses, residences of the nobility and other old-style buildings, a functioning community of potters, millers, weavers, blacksmiths, pipe makers, and other craftsmen continue to work as their ancestors did. You can buy traditional Korean handicrafts, and the restaurants serve regional food and drinks. Folk dances, musical performances, and traditional ceremonies such as weddings are put on in the village's small amphitheater.

Onyang

This hot springs resort is a two-and-a-half hour ride from Seoul. Along the way is Yong-Moon Temple, and an hour or so farther is Sooduksa, one of the oldest of Korea's temples and especially beautiful in cherry blossom time.

Popju Temple

Approximately two hours from Seoul, Popju Temple is located at the foot of Songni Mountain and boasts the world-famous 27 meter high Stone Buddha.

CURRENCY CONVERSION TABLE

As of May 18, 1993

Financial Management Center
American Embassy
Seoul, Korea

Exchange Rate: W800 = \$1.00

U.S. Dollar to Korean Won

Korean Won to U.S. Dollar

.05	=	40	10	=	0.01
.10	=	80	50	=	0.06
.25	=	200	100	=	0.13
.50	=	400	200	=	0.25
.75	=	600	500	=	0.63
1.00	=	800	1,000	=	1.25
2.00	=	1,600	2,000	=	2.50
3.00	=	2,400	3,000	=	3.75
4.00	=	3,200	4,000	=	5.00
5.00	=	4,000	5,000	=	6.25
10.00	=	8,000	6,000	=	7.50
15.00	=	12,000	7,000	=	8.75
20.00	=	16,000	8,000	=	10.00
30.00	=	24,000	9,000	=	11.25
40.00	=	32,000	10,000	=	12.50
50.00	=	40,000	15,000	=	18.75
100.00	=	80,000	20,000	=	25.00
150.00	=	120,000	25,000	=	31.25
200.00	=	160,000	30,000	=	37.50
300.00	=	240,000	40,000	=	50.00
400.00	=	320,000	50,000	=	62.50
500.00	=	400,000	100,000	=	125.00

Exchange Rate: W800 = \$1.00

As of 05/18/93

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 4/8

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South Korea's Kim Focuses on Economy, Looks to U.S. Leadership on North Korea

By KAREN ELLIOTT HOUSE
And URBAN C. LEHNER

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

SEOUL, South Korea — After a month in office, South Korea's President Kim Young Sam insists he is making progress in restoring his people's confidence and his nation's economic competitiveness.

Indeed, he is so focused on revitalizing South Korea's economy — which grew last year at a 4.7% pace, the lowest in a decade — that strong evidence North Korea is building a nuclear bomb seems to take second place on his agenda.

"I'm really worried about North Korea," he said, but implied that he was confident diplomatic efforts by the U.S., Japan and China can persuade North Korea to reverse its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Whether discussing domestic or foreign policy during an interview, Mr. Kim sought to underscore the theme of change.

He is only South Korea's second democratically elected president and its first civilian president.

Sounding much like President Clinton, Mr. Kim is calling for sacrifice by Koreans at all levels to revitalize the economy and restore social discipline. By disclosing his own wealth and insisting that his cabinet do likewise, Mr. Kim hopes to convince Koreans that government leaders aren't benefiting while asking the people to sacrifice. The president's immediate aim is to convince Korea's increasingly assertive workers to accept a wage freeze.

"The most important thing is that the leadership and the government should set an example," Mr. Kim said. "I have called for burden sharing for the nation: We must revitalize our economy." In his campaign he promised to cure the "Korean disease," a combination of excessive wage demands, a waning work ethic and insufficient savings and investment, which he said is pricing Korean exports out of world markets.



Kim Young Sam

Already, Mr. Kim sees signs — including his own 70%-plus support rating in public-opinion polls — that he is changing Korean attitudes toward work and its rewards. "The Korean people have begun to have a mentality which can be characterized as full of confidence," he said. "They have begun to believe that those who sow the seeds will reap the harvest."

Mr. Kim, who has said he dreamed of being president in junior high school, clearly relishes the job after 36 years as a dissident politician, several times stripped of his political rights and imprisoned.

The 65-year-old president is trim and fit. He rises daily at 5:15 a.m. to jog two and a half miles. Mr. Kim said he wants to jog with Mr. Clinton, whom he hopes will visit Korea in July when the U.S. president attends the G-7 economic summit in Tokyo.

But Mr. Kim's agenda for a Clinton visit includes much more than a jog. Mr. Clinton's presence in Korea, where 35,000 U.S. troops are stationed, would be a "very clear gesture of unity" against North Korea's "nuclear ambitions," Mr. Kim said.

Mr. Kim expressed confidence that Korean-American trade relations, strained in recent years, will improve under Mr. Clinton.

"Because our two countries are close and developed mutual understanding for many years, Korea is one of the countries that can best understand the U.S. and cooperate with the U.S. government," he said. Indeed, he called Korea "America's closest ally in this region."

In a sharp break with past policy, Mr. Kim also pledged to improve his nation's relations with Japan, a nation most Koreans recall bitterly as a ruthless occupier. "I have pledged our relations with the U.S. and Japan are the most important pillars of Korean diplomacy," he said.

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Clinton Library Transfer Form

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Collection/Record Group	Clinton Presidential Records	Series/Staff Name	Executive Secretary	
Subgroup/Office of Origin	National Security Council	Subseries	Itoh, William	
Folder Title	Korea Background, July 1993	OA Number	826	Box Number
Description of Item(s)	Tourist Map of Seoul			

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Other (Specify):	Oversize Cabinet 2 Drawer 1

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