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POTUS [President of the United States] Speech Files-G-7 Trip-Korea, Other Speeches:
Korea Arrival Statement

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SEOUL ARRIVAL STATEMENT

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to visit the Republic of Korea once again [check that]. I have long admired Korea's unique combination of new and ancient cultures, and the determination of the Korean people to meet modern challenges with age-old virtues like hard work, vision, and courage.

As you know, I have just come from a meeting with my fellow G-7 leaders and with Russian President Yeltsin. I have come away from those meetings believing that America will continue to be active and engaged in the Asian-Pacific region. I am confident that America's vigorous and adaptive nature makes us uniquely suited for economic success in this dynamic region. And I am committed to continuing America's essential role as the linchpin of the region's security structure.

I greatly look forward to meeting with President Kim Young Sam, a courageous democratic leader. His election, and Korea's historic reforms, are helping to advance the breathtaking global march to freedom. Korea's democratic advances provide a solid foundation for the continuation of Korea's economic miracle. They enrich another dimension of life in this beautiful country. And they tighten the bonds between our two nations.

These are bonds of already great resilience and durability. The Republic of Korea is one of America's most valued partners, a

friend and ally, and I want to emphasize right now that our longstanding commitment to Korea's security is going to remain absolutely firm. I also want to underscore the extremely close cooperation our two governments have established in pursuit of shared non-proliferation objectives in North Korea.

Since joining the United Nations in 1991, the Republic of Korea has become an increasingly active global citizen. Korea's contributions to the UN efforts in Somalia are especially inspiring. They demonstrate Korea's willingness to join responsibilities with resources.

And as Korea's economy continues its impressive long-term growth, it is helping to promote prosperity around the world. The economic relationship between the United States and Korea -- which I believe is so important -- will only be strengthened by President Kim's plans to liberalize and internationalize his country's economy and trading patterns.

This visit comes at an important time for Korea, America and the Asian-Pacific community. We have an opportunity to begin defining the terms of regional cooperation in this new era. We have, in fact, an obligation to do so. I relish the challenge, and I am certain that my time here will be not only enjoyable but extremely productive. Thank you.

SEOUL ARRIVAL STATEMENT

It is a great pleasure to return to the Republic of Korea. I have long admired Korea's vitality and her blend of the ancient and the new. Mrs. Clinton and I look forward to our visit here.

As you know, I have just come from very productive meetings with my fellow G-7 leaders and Russian President Yeltsin. We made good progress on steps to open markets and spur growth in this global economy, of which Korea is an important part. I have also stressed our commitment to be very actively engaged in the economy and security of this Asian Pacific region. That is a commitment I will re-emphasize during my visit here in Korea.

I greatly look forward to meeting with President Kim Young Sam, a courageous democratic leader. His election, and Korea's historic reforms, provide a solid foundation for the continuation of Korea's economic miracle and they help move the world's march toward democracy another step forward.

The Republic of Korea is one of America's most valued partners and allies. I want to emphasize that our longstanding commitment to Korea's security is going to remain absolutely firm. I also want to underscore the close cooperation our two governments on many other efforts, from our economic partnership to our non-proliferation objectives regarding North Korea.

This visit comes at an important time for Korea, America and the Asian-Pacific community. Working together, we have an historic opportunity to shape a new era for this region's economy and security. I look forward to advancing that effort during my visit to this wonderful country. Thank you.

KOREA: CONTINGENCY ARRIVAL STATEMENT

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to visit the Republic of Korea once again. As you know, I have just come from a meeting of the G-7 leaders and with Russian President Yeltsin in Tokyo. I am now looking forward to meeting with President Kim Young Sam, with whom I expect to have very productive discussions.

The Republic of Korea is one of the United States' most valued partners, a friend and ally. I want to emphasize right now that our longstanding commitment to its security is going to remain absolutely firm. But I also welcome the willingness of the Korean Government to work closely with us on improvements to security in a broader sense. In this regard, I want to take special note of the extremely close cooperation we have received in pursuit of our shared nuclear non-proliferation objectives -- objectives we are now closer to achieving in North Korea than ever before.

Since joining the United Nations in 1991, the Republic of Korea has increasingly participated in international efforts to promote peace and prosperity throughout the world. The contribution to the Somalia Fund and the Korean forces that will join the UN peacekeeping forces there are only the most recent examples.

Our two peoples' economic welfare is another aspect of broader security, and as the Korean economy continues its impressive long-term growth, our trading partnership will make

an increasingly important contribution. This partnership can only be strengthened by President Kim's plan to liberalize and internationalize the Korean economy. I look forward to working with President Kim so that together we can contribute to a new era of openness in world trade.

My family and I are enthusiastically looking forward to learning more about Korea on this visit. I am sure there will be additional opportunities to see you all again while we are here.

Thank you very much.