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

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SEOUL DEPARTURE STATEMENT

I have just completed an interesting and very productive visit to Korea. In my discussions with President Kim, the National Assembly and the Korean people, I emphasized the importance of a strong and broad-based partnership between the United States and South Korea. In light of serious concerns over the North Korean nuclear program, such a partnership is more necessary than ever.

The U.S. will continue to consult closely with the Republic of Korea and the rest of the international community on ways to encourage responsible policies in North Korea. President Kim and I have affirmed our cooperative intention to deter aggression from the North and to help bring peace and unification to the peninsula on terms acceptable to the Korean people. The North-South dialogue will continue to be the primary means of resolving many outstanding issues in Korea. Our own contacts with North Korea will be designed primarily to buttress the efforts of the government of the Republic of Korea.

In the course of our discussions, I made clear my belief that the United States can and must retain an active and engaged role in the Pacific region. I congratulated President Kim for the vision of his program to deregulate, liberalize and internationalize the Korean economy. This plan for a "New Economy" will help integrate Korea into the new global economy.

President Kim and I agreed to initiate a dialogue on economic cooperation and to intensify ongoing bilateral trade and financial talks. We felt strongly too that we must redouble our efforts to ensure a successful conclusion to the GATT Uruguay Round.

I come away from this visit newly impressed by the democratic reforms that President Kim is undertaking. He is a leader of great courage and conviction and he represents the historic determination of the Korean people to decide their own destiny. The United States supports his efforts, not only because they will benefit the Korean people, but also because they further advance the worldwide movement toward democracy.

This march to freedom makes Korea stronger, the region safer -- it cements the alliance and warm friendship between our two countries. I look forward to following the progress of reform here. I hope to have another opportunity to visit this proud and prosperous country. And I thank President Kim and the Korean people for their warm hospitality during our stay.

6/16

KOREA: CONTINGENCY DEPARTURE STATEMENT

This has been a very productive visit. Our discussions have emphasized the strong and broad-based partnership between the United States and South Korea. In light of serious international concerns over the unresolved North Korean nuclear program, such a partnership is more necessary than ever.

We will continue to consult closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the rest of the international community over future steps to encourage North Korea to become a responsible member of the world community. President Kim and I have affirmed our intention to work together not only to maintain the security of the Republic of Korea, but also to help bring peace and unification to the peninsula on terms acceptable to the Korean people.

The North-South dialogue will continue to be the primary means of resolving Korea's problems. Our own contacts with North Korea will be designed solely to buttress the efforts of the Korean Government.

In order to strengthen our economic partnership, President Kim and I agreed we will initiate a dialogue for economic cooperation and intensify our ongoing trade and financial talks. We will also redouble our efforts to ensure a successful conclusion to the Uruguay round as soon as possible this year.

It is the excellent, long-term relations we have with nations such as South Korea that make our continuing presence in Asia not only a matter of policy, but one of warm friendship between peoples.