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Korea Toast

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PRESIDENT KIM DINNER TOAST

Mr. President, Mrs. Kim, distinguished guests:

Tonight we celebrate the strong, enduring relationship between our two countries. Forty-three years ago, America and the Republic of Korea joined forces to preserve freedom on this peninsula. The times were perilous indeed. Few then could have imagined how successful our efforts would be.

Your country's remarkable economic development has made Korea a model today for other nations seeking to join the ranks of the developed world. And your rising prosperity is now complemented by a second "Miracle on the Han" -- the flowering of democracy.

You have been an eloquent voice for democracy, President Kim, when democracy was not an easy thing to advocate. Your values and valor have led the people of Korea to a new level of freedom.

I know that the democratic impulse runs deep in Korea. Your famous King Sejong, I recall, had a great concern for ordinary people who could not read and write with complicated Chinese characters. So he summoned his best scholars to create one of the first phonetic alphabets in Asia and one of the most scientifically devised in the world. That alphabet gave all Koreans the chance to be literate and to participate in the affairs of their society.

Mr. President, your historic leadership on behalf of democracy embodies that same impulse to empower your people. Today, some claim that the world's recent march toward democracy has been only an aberration of history. Others suggest democracy and human rights are somehow unsuited to Asian culture. A half century ago, a great American president had something to say to such skeptics who underestimate the power and sweep of democratic values. He said:

"Democracy alone, of all forms of government, enlists the full force of men's enlightened will....It is the most humane, the most advanced and in the end the most unconquerable of all forms of human society. The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase of human history. It is human history."

That wisdom was part of the greatness of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And that wisdom characterizes the leadership of President Kim Young Sam.

Ultimately, these achievements belong in large measure to the Korean people themselves -- soldiers at the front lines, workers in the factories, entrepreneurs, teachers and students -- countless Koreans who have worked so tirelessly to achieve economic and political progress in this beautiful land. The persevering character of the Korean people is captured so well in the famous poem by Suh Jung Ju about the chrysanthemum. The

chrysanthemum, he wrote, endures thunder, lightning and storming rain all night long. And yet, in the morning it blooms triumphantly. The Korean people have indeed bloomed triumphantly, and I salute them.

Of course, many challenges await us. We must confront the continuing threat that North Korea and its nuclear program pose to you and the broader region. In part, I have come to reaffirm my country's unwavering commitment to South Korea's security. But looking further ahead, we must strive to unify the peninsula in peace once again on terms acceptable to the Korean people.

Like you, I look forward to the day when all South Koreans will be able to see the beauty of Baekdu Mountain in North Korea, and when all North Koreans will be able to witness the modern splendor of Seoul. We know that unification will not come easily. It will require both vision and vigilance. But it will come -- I have no doubt -- and just as I stand beside you now, Mr. President, so too will America stand beside Korea when that long-awaited day arrives.

We are proud to be your friend and ally in this journey. Indeed, with ties now spanning the broad spectrum of political, economic and security affairs, our nations have become partners in the broadest sense of the word.

It is in this spirit that I have come to Korea -- to affirm a dedicated partnership between our two peoples. And to initiate a personal partnership with you, Mr. President, which I know will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

In our separate inaugural addresses, Mr. President, we each invoked the image of seasonal rebirth -- you spoke of "a new spring of democracy"; I spoke of "a new spring of hope." Now, as we enter the summer months, let us celebrate the meeting of our minds and rejoice in the warm friendship between America and Korea. With great respect and appreciation, I ask everyone here to join me in a toast to you, Mr. President, and to the Republic of Korea -- for peace, democracy, unification and continued prosperity.

UNCLASSIFIED

DINNER TOAST

Mr. President, Mrs. Kim, distinguished guests:

Tonight we celebrate the strong and enduring relationship between our two countries. As we look back over the past decades there is much that we can take pride in. Forty-three years ago, when we joined forces to preserve freedom on the Korean Peninsula, the times were perilous indeed. Few then could have imagined how successful our efforts would become.

And what a success story! Your country's remarkable economic development is known throughout the world--~~indeed~~, Korea is ~~now~~ a model for other countries seeking to join the ranks of the developed world. And Korea's economic success is now matched by a second "Miracle on the Han"--the flowering of democracy in the Republic of Korea.

These achievements belong to the Korean people--soldiers at the front lines, workers in the factories, entrepreneurs, teachers and students, and your political leaders--those countless people who worked so tirelessly to achieve economic and political progress in this beautiful land.

Of course, there will be difficulties ahead and tasks are still unfinished--particularly unifying the peninsula once again in peace. But unification will come--I have no doubt that it will--and just as we are with you now, so too will we be with you when that long-awaited day arrives.

We are proud to be your friend and ally in this journey. Indeed, we are more than friends and allies. With ties now spanning the broad spectrum of political, economic, and security affairs, our two nations have become partners in the broadest sense of the word.

It is in this spirit that ^I~~we~~ have come to Korea: a spirit of partnership between our two countries and between our two peoples. And beginning in our meeting this afternoon, a personal partnership with ~~Mr.~~ President ^{Kim} which I know will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

And so, Mr. President, it is with respect and our deepest appreciation for this magnificent evening and your warm hospitality, that I ask that everyone to join me in raising our glasses for a toast, a toast to you, Mr. President, and to the Republic of Korea--for peace, democracy, unification, and continued prosperity.

OPENING TOAST FOR PRESIDENT'S
DINNER WITH PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM
November 23, 1993

Mr. President, Mrs. Kim, distinguished guests:

Four months ago, Mrs. Clinton and I were deeply honored by the warm hospitality that President and Mrs. Kim extended to us during our visit to Korea, including a memorable state dinner at Korea's Blue House. Tonight, it is our pleasure to welcome President and Mrs. Kim to the first state dinner we have held at the White House.

Mr. President, your leadership for democracy in Korea has been an inspiration to freedom-loving people around the world. And you have provided leadership as well for your country's remarkable economic performance, which has made Korea a model for other nations. Terrain that was once bomb-scarred and war-ravaged today supports modern factories and new skyscrapers. In just 33 years, Korea's output has increased an astounding 100 fold.

The optimism and perseverance that have made South Korea great can be found in abundance in the Korean-American community. Over a million Korean-Americans today are contributing enormously to the dynamism of American life. They are building bonds of cooperation across an ocean of opportunity -- bonds that will serve our two nations well as we meet the many challenges that await us.

For forty-three years, President Kim, America and Korea have stood shoulder to shoulder to preserve security on the peninsula. Today, new challenges, such as North Korea's nuclear program, continue to demand our vigilance and our determined effort. But they also demand that we demonstrate vision. You and I share a vision, Mr. President -- a vision of a Korea at peace and one day re-united on terms acceptable to the Korean people.

During my trip to Korea in July, I was moved not only by the beauty of the Land of the Morning Calm, but by the spirit of the Korean people. When I visited the bustling metropolis of Seoul, I gained a better appreciation of the scope of Korea's economic success -- the "Miracle on the Han." When I stood on the somber bridge at the Point of No Return, I gained a deeper appreciation for Korea's continuing security challenges. When I spoke to the National Assembly, I gained an inspiring appreciation of Korea's commitment to democracy. And when I went jogging with President Kim, I gained a healthy appreciation for the warmth, vigor, and endurance of Korea's leader.

President Kim, it is with admiration for you and with respect for the Korean people that I invite everyone to join me in a toast to you and to the Republic of Korea -- may democracy continue to flourish there, and may the dream of peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula soon become reality.

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ON HIS MEETING WITH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM
November 23, 1993

It is a great pleasure to welcome President Kim Young Sam to Washington today. During my visit to Seoul in July, I had the opportunity to visit with President Kim at the Blue House, which is Korea's presidential residence. I am honored to return his gracious hospitality today by welcoming him to our White House.

I have great admiration for President Kim, who for decades has worked tirelessly to broaden Korea's democracy. His democratic passage to the presidency is an inspiring measure of Korea's progress -- proof that freedom knows no regional bounds. I am delighted his contributions to Korea's democracy were acknowledged when he received the Averell Harriman Award from the National Democratic Institute last night.

The discussions President Kim and I held today were far-ranging and productive. We continued our conversations from the APEC Leaders meeting in Seattle and expressed our support for APEC's ideal of an Asian Pacific region ever more closely integrated through open markets and open societies.

Today we discussed the actions President Kim is taking to advance that vision in his country. He has taken a number of encouraging steps to remove barriers to foreign investment, open financial markets, and strengthen intellectual property rights. I also am encouraged by the good start of the U.S.-Korea Dialogue on Economic Cooperation. We must work now to implement the proposals raised in the dialogue.

Our economic cooperation will be especially vital as both our nations seek to achieve a new GATT agreement in the coming weeks. Korea, like the U.S., has both a crucial role and a substantial stake in bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion.

The most important piece of our discussions centered on North Korea. We are both concerned by North Korea's movement of additional forces to the Demilitarized Zone and by its refusal to grant international inspectors full access to its nuclear sites. In recent weeks, my Administration has been working with the Congress, South Korea, Japan, our partners in the United Nations Security Council, and others to develop additional measures to address North Korea's nuclear program in a firm manner.

Today, I reaffirmed to President Kim America's unyielding commitment to South Korea's security. My Administration has made clear to North Korea that it faces a simple choice. If it abandons its nuclear option and honors its international nonproliferation commitments, the door will be open on a wide range of issues -- not only with the United States, but with the rest of the world. If it does not, it risks facing the opposition of the entire international community.

Our goals in this matter are clear: a non-nuclear peninsula and a strong international nonproliferation regime. To these ends, we are prepared to discuss with North Korea a comprehensive approach to all the issues that divide us -- and once and for all resolve the nuclear issue. But we cannot do that in the absence of a dialogue between North and South Korea and while there is growing doubt about the continuity of IAEA safeguards.

North Korea's nuclear program and its continuing military threat pose serious challenges to both South Korea and America -- but our two nations have worked together to overcome challenges before. Our friendship was forged in the heat of war, as our forces fought shoulder to shoulder to turn back aggression. Our friendship has continued over the four decades since that war ended, as the people of Korea have transformed their country into an economic and democratic model for the entire region.

I have enjoyed working with President Kim to deepen the historic friendship between our two nations, and I look forward to working with him and the Korean people in the days to come. President Kim.



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Remarks
by the President
of the United States of America
at a Dinner hosted by
the President of the Republic of Korea
and Mrs. Kim Young Sam

서 울
1993年 7月 10日

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