

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Four Party Peace Talks-Plenary

Staff Office-Individual:

Asian Affairs-Pritchard, Charles

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30	3	1	3	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	From White House Situation Room to Jeffery Bader, Rand Beers, Joseph Bouchard, et al at 8:04 pm. Subject: Opening Session. (13 pages)	12/09/1997	P1/b(1)
002. email	From White House Situation Room to Jeffery Bader, Rand Beers, Joseph Bouchard, et al at 11:05 am. Subject: Day 2. (3 pages)	12/10/1997	P1/b(1)
003. statement	Chairman's Statement. (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1)
004. statement	Opening Statement. (3 pages)	12/03/1997	P1/b(1)
005. statement	Substantive Opening Remarks. [As Delivered] (12 pages)	12/09/1997	P1/b(1)
006. agenda	Four Party Plenary Meeting. (15 pages)	12/05/1997	P1/b(1)
007. statement	Statement of the Republic of Korea. (9 pages)	12/1997	P1/b(1)
008. note	Pyongyang Proposes December 15-16. (1 page)	11/05/1997	P1/b(1)
009. note	Discussion on Four Party Talks. (1 page)	11/06/1997	P1/b(1)
010. report	The Koreas. (13 pages)	05/09/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Asian Affairs (Jack Pritchard)
OA/Box Number: 3058

FOLDER TITLE:

Four Party Peace Talks - Plenary

2009-0528-F

vz1475

RESTRICTION CODES

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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All this, and a Korean election too

WHAT a shock it must be for Koreans to discover that what they thought was a rich, rapidly growing homeland with near-perfect job security is in fact teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. If the chants of crowds in the capital are anything to go by, they are determined, collectively, to do something about the mess. The trouble is that, after years of government-sponsored anti-import and anti-consumption campaigns, many South Koreans believe that most problems can be solved by saving more and not buying foreign luxury goods. To do their bit, students and housewives thronged the streets this week to burn effigies of unpatriotic spendthrifts who buy Gucci handbags and take their holidays in Guam. Asiana, a local airline, has stopped

serving snacks on domestic flights. A burglar in Seoul, the capital, has defended himself by noting that the rich people he robbed were selfishly hoarding dollars that they should have swapped for won to brake the currency's slide.

All three candidates in the presidential election due on December 18th are playing up to this silliness. Kim Dae Jung, the veteran dissident who was a whisker ahead on November 25th, the last time opinion polls were allowed, waved a \$100 bill before the television cameras and urged his fellow Koreans to follow his example by putting their hard currency into a local bank. Both Mr Kim and Rhee In Je, a former provincial governor, promise to "safeguard" Korean jobs by challenging the IMF's insistence on

a flexible labour market as a condition for loans to keep the country afloat. Not even Lee Hoi Chang, the ruling party's candidate, whose economic advisers are thought to be sounder than his rivals', has told the demonstrators that they have misdiagnosed the country's ills.

Issues other than the economy are less prominent, but still part of the campaign. The country's main spy agency, anxious perhaps to keep security problems on the agenda, announced on December 9th that two southern schoolchildren who disappeared in 1977 had been abducted to North Korea to teach spies how to sound like groovy capitalists instead of brainwashed Dear Leader-worshippers. North Korea then chipped in to remind people what a foul neighbour it is by complaining that South Korean engineers building a power station on its territory were attempting to cast postal ballots: the North fears that such

The North talks, if the rest pay

IT MAY be on its economic uppers, but North Korea is in no hurry to bury the hatchet with richer South Korea. It took 20 months of haggling just to get North Korea to sit down on December 9th in Geneva with South Korea, the United States and China to begin talks on a new peace framework for the Korean peninsula. The idea is eventually to replace the fraying armistice that ended the Korean war (if not the hostilities) some 44 years ago. Nobody expects the talks to get anywhere soon: they could run on for years. The hope is that by coaxing the two Koreas into the same room, small confidence-building steps can be measured out so as to bring some stability to one of the world's most dangerous corners.

Expectations are low because the interests of the four parties at the talks diverge widely. America assumes that one day North Korea will finally buckle into the arms of its ally, South Korea. In the meantime, it is keen to keep a lid on a row that could draw its 37,000 troops in South Korea into a war with a possibly nuclear-armed North. It also wants to keep talking to North Korea privately about American servicemen still missing since the Korean war, and about the North's missile sales to dodgy regimes. China, once a firm friend of North Korea, but now keen to keep on good economic

terms with the South, is happy to mediate between the two in the hope of preventing a collapse in the North and the creation of a unified, all-capitalist Korea.

As for the rival Koreas themselves, both claim to want reunification of their divided country, although only on their own—incompatible—terms. But even that supposedly shared aim looks increasingly hollow. Even before its recent financial problems, South Korea had begun to blench at the likely cost of a German-style reunification—anything up to \$2 trillion over the first ten years—not to mention the floods of hungry North Koreans who might flee south. Talk these days is of "reconciliation" first, in the hope that North Korea will adopt reforms that can narrow the wealth gap between the two.

But North Korea's intentions are hard

to read. Its boss, Kim Jong Il, is unpredictable and all but invisible. Before his death in 1994, Kim Il Sung, Mr Kim's father and North Korea's founding demi-god, had been contemplating a summit with South Korea's president, but there is no sign yet that the younger Kim will pick up the idea.

North Korea makes no bones about what it wants: huge quantities of aid, preferably with no conditions attached, to prop up its economy, the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea and a separate peace deal with the United States that cuts the South Koreans dead. It will not get the troops out, but it will go on trying to drive wedges between South Korea and the Americans, in Geneva and elsewhere.

North Korea's Mr Kim may be camera-shy, but he already has successes to his credit. Although still technically "at war" with America and South Korea, North Korea

has in recent years received large amounts of food aid from both for its malnourished people. It has a direct diplomatic channel to America. And it will eventually receive two spanking-new nuclear reactors, financed by South Korea and Japan, in return for ending its illicit production of plutonium from which nuclear bombs can be made. Not a bad tally for the North's past misbehaviour. Expect it now to milk the new four-party talks that began this week for all they are worth—and more.



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PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE:

Monday, December 8

- 14:00 Entire U.S. Delegation Meeting in Rm. 916
- 15:15 Depart for CICG from hotel lobby
- 15:30 (-16:30) US-ROK Bilateral Meeting
- 18:30 Reception for all delegations is in the Voltaire Suite, ground floor, Intercontinental Hotel

Wednesday, December 10

- 13:00 Lunch venue and participants have been changed

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006. agenda	Four Party Plenary Meeting. (15 pages)	12/05/1997	P1/b(1)

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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 21, 1997

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Four-Party Plenary Scheduled for December 9

I am pleased with the agreement reached today in New York to begin plenary talks on December 9 in Geneva to achieve a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. It carries forward the Four-Party peace initiative President Kim Young Sam and I launched in April 1996. In Geneva, the four parties -- the United States, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of China -- will together discuss how we can secure a stable and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. There is a lot of hard work ahead. But this is an important first step and the United States is prepared to be a full partner in helping the Korean people build a future of peace.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

November 21, 1997

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

KOREA -- FOUR-PARTY TALKS

I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT TODAY THE UNITED STATES, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AGREED TO BEGIN PLENARY TALKS TO ACHIEVE A LASTING AND STABLE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN IN GENEVA ON DECEMBER 9.

THIS SIGNIFICANT DIPLOMATIC ACCOMPLISHMENT IS THE FRUIT OF THE PROCESS LAUNCHED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND ROK PRESIDENT KIM IN APRIL 1996. THESE WILL BE THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TALKS ON REPLACING THE 1953 ARMISTICE, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT.

WE KNOW THAT THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG ROAD. HOWEVER, SUCCESS IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PARTIES, AS IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE REGION -- AND THE WORLD -- AS A WHOLE.