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11/14/74
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

*Called 11/16/74
JAC*

TO: Congressman Tip O'Neill
(Phone numbers: Boston Home - 617-876-7677
Cape Home - 617-432-5409
District Office - 617-223-2784 or
617-223-2500)

DATE: Before departure for Far East trip

RECOMMENDED BY: Max Friedersdorf and Warren Rustand

PURPOSE: To respond to a Letter from eight Congressional Members which Cong. O'Neill has been following up on.

BACKGROUND: The attached letter points out the risks of the President's visit to Korea being interpreted as approving the excessive governmental power wielded by President Park. The Congressmen would like the President to convey America's concern for Korean human rights. They urge him to meet with Korean people and not just government officials.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Tip, I have received and reviewed your letter earlier in the week and informed the NSC of your concerns.
2. I share your concern for maintaining the integrity of human rights worldwide and I believe my activities in Korea will reflect this.
3. During my day in Korea, I will be attending a reception at the Capitol prior to the State Dinner. This reception will be attended by a broad spectrum of Korean citizens and not just government officials.
4. I hope you will convey my intentions as well as my thanks to my other Congressional friends who joined you in drafting this letter. I look forward to my return and pulling together to rectify the domestic ills.

November 14, 1974

ACTION _____

5254

October 30, 1974

ACTION
T/D _____
SCHEDULE BD. _____
DATE RECEIVED
NOV 1 1974
MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

Dear Tip:

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your October 24 letter to the President in which you and seven of your colleagues request a meeting with him before his departure for South Korea.

The President's schedule is extremely heavy at this time and will continue to be for the next several weeks. However, I shall call your letter to his early attention as well as to the Appointments Secretary, and I am sure that every consideration will be given to your request for a meeting. Also, I shall make your concerns known to the President's foreign policy advisors.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

William M. Timmons
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WET:EF:frw

bcc w/inc to Warren Rustand for further action
bcc w/inc to General Scowcroft - FYI
bcc w/inc to Shirley Hays - FYI

Same ack sent to all signees

KOREAN
NAT. Assembly

Gen. Scowcroft
discussed by
phone w/ Bill
Nicholson

10-29

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 24, 1974

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Your decision to visit South Korea in November carries some grave risks for U.S. foreign policy. The situation with respect to human rights in South Korea has received extensive consideration both by the Foreign Affairs Committee during the hearings and mark-up of the foreign aid bill, as well as during joint hearings by the Subcommittees on International Organizations and Movements and on Asian and Pacific Affairs. We would greatly appreciate having the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Korean trip and how it can best reflect the common aspirations of the Korean and American people for the attainment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As you are aware, President Park Chung Hee has in recent years placed severe restrictions on the exercise of fundamental civil rights and liberties. At the present time, approximately 200 people are in prison for violating decrees which made it a crime to propose revisions in the Constitution or for students to engage in political activity. Those imprisoned include Protestant and Catholic clergyman, university professors, and political leaders. A former President of South Korea received a suspended sentence and the opposition candidate for the Presidency in 1971 (who received about 46% of the vote) was kidnapped from Japan and is under house arrest.

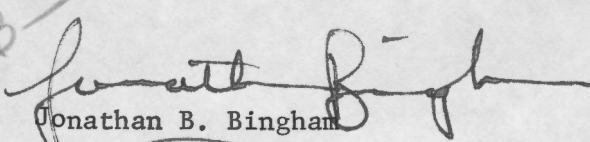
We are sure you would not want your visit to South Korea to be interpreted as approving or even condoning the unwarranted excesses of governmental power exercised by President Park. On the contrary, we hope that you will use this opportunity to convey to President Park the growing concern Americans have about the destruction of democracy in Korea. President Park should be informed that unless human rights are restored to the Korean people, the United States will begin to disengage from South Korea. The House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have placed restrictions on military assistance to South Korea because of the oppression in that country.

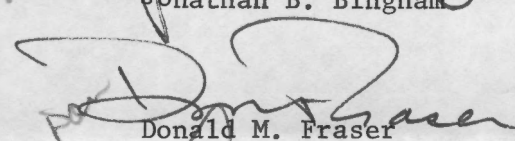
The President
The White House
Page 2

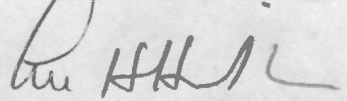
As you may be aware, members of the opposition political parties, as well as church and university officials, are advocating a revision of the Constitution to restore political freedoms. A debate has commenced in the National Assembly. Although President Park has lifted two emergency decrees he has not shown any sign of responding positively to these demands. If, during your visit, you should meet only with leaders in the government, the Korean people would interpret this behavior as indicating approval for continuing the present authoritarian government. We therefore strongly urge you to address the National Assembly and meet privately with opposition political party leaders, as well as church and university officials.

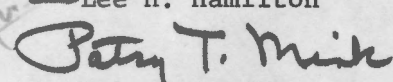
We sincerely hope that you will be able to meet with us before making your trip to South Korea.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. B.

Jonathan B. Bingham

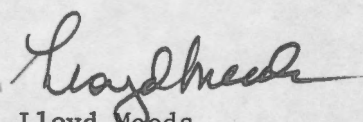
Dear Mr. Fraser

Donald M. Fraser

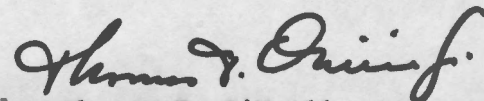
Dear Mr. Hamilton

Lee H. Hamilton

Dear Mrs. Mink

Patsy T. Mink

Dear Mrs. Mink
Dear Mrs. Mink
DMF:gw

cc: Hon. Henry Kissinger - Secretary of State
Hon. Philip C. Habib - Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Mr. Donald L. Ranard - Director Korea Office, Department of State

Dear Mr. Needs

Lloyd Needs

Dear Mr. O'Neill

Thomas P. O'Neill

Dear Mr. Udall
Dear Mr. Udall
Morris K. Udall

Dear Mr. Whalen

Charles W. Whalen

Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

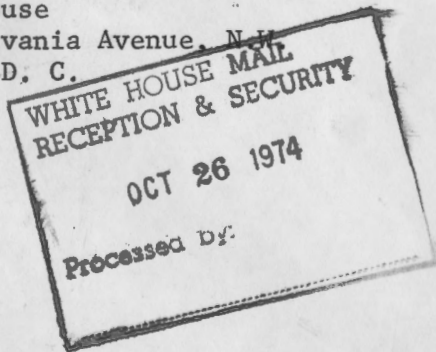
Official Business

BT

Attn: Mr. William Timmons
Assistant to the President

Thomas E. Morgan
M.C.

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.



WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

1974 OCT 28 PM 12 01

cc