MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Chung II-Kwon, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hahm Pyong-choon, ROK Ambassador to U.S.
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE & TIME: Thursday - May 8, 1975
10:45 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office
The White House

The President: I understand you have been meeting with a number of Congressmen on the Hill.

[The press is admitted for photographs.]

How many members of the Assembly are here?

Chung: Six.

Hahm: You had four Prime Ministers here yesterday.

President: Three yesterday and one today.

[The press is ushered out.]

Chung: I met with President Park before my departure. He asked me to convey his special wishes to you.

The President: Please give him my best. I appreciated his welcome and that of the Korean people when I visited last November. I appreciated it and the opportunity to discuss with him privately about our special relationship.
Chung: We appreciate your reaffirmation of the ties with Korea.

The President: I wanted it said publicly as well as privately. We intend to maintain close ties and live up to our obligations. We have no intention of changing our commitment to your strength and I hope we can proceed as soon as possible in helping your modernization. Congress isn't always cooperative, but we will do our best within those restraints.

Chung: It raises the morale of the Korean people, as did your visit. I will transfer your message to President Park and the Korean people.

President: I hope President Park is well.

Chung: He is. Frankly, we hope you stay as President forever.

The President: That is not quite possible. But my Administration feels strongly about maintaining a strong presence in Asia, and a vital part of that is our association with Korea.

Hahn: Even the opposition leaders are giving the message that we don't want the American troops withdrawn.

The President: We have a problem with Congress. I hope you have been able to convey a unified message.

Hahn: We have unity on the security issue. They said to leave the domestic issues to us. That is our problem.

Chung: Please convey my regards to Mrs. Ford.

[The conversation ended.]
MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER OF
THE SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
CHUNG II-KWON
Thursday, May 8, 1975
10:45 a.m. (10 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger

I. PURPOSE

To reassure South Korea of the solidity of our security commitment in the wake of Indochina.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: Speaker Chung is visiting Washington, heading a delegation of six National Assemblymen, to ascertain first-hand the firmness of the U.S. security commitment to South Korea. While here, he will also see Secretary Kissinger, Speaker Albert, and Senators Hugh Scott and John Sparkman. After Washington, he is continuing on to France, Germany, and Japan.

The fall of Indochina has had a serious impact on South Korea. Even before that development, South Korea had been troubled in the past year or so by concerns over the dependability of our security commitment. The impact of Indochina events on South Korea was aggravated when North Korean Premier Kim II-sung promptly left for Peking, his first visit there since 1961, as if to concert new pressures against the South.

In the wake of Indochina, we have given Seoul several strong reassurances on our security commitment. You specifically reaffirmed that commitment in your State-of-the-World address.
Speaker Chung is one of the leading political figures in South Korea. He was Prime Minister from 1964 to 1970, Ambassador to the U.S. from 1961 to 1963, and Army Chief of Staff during the Korean War. He does not have independent political aspirations, and therefore is not viewed by President Park as a political competitor even though he is sometimes mentioned as a possible successor to Park.

B. Participants: Speaker Chung and Ambassador to the U.S. Hahn Pyong-choon. On the U.S. side, General Scowcroft. (No interpreter is needed. Chung speaks excellent English.)

C. Press Arrangements: The call will be announced routinely, and the press will be briefed following the meeting. There will be a photo opportunity.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. I want to assure you that Indochina has in no way weakened the U.S. security treaty commitment to the Republic of Korea, just as it has not weakened U.S. commitments to America's other allies. I have publicly and specifically reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to the Republic of Korea, and others have reiterated that message.

2. This Administration plans no basic change in the lines of its foreign policy. I consider that the basic thrust of American foreign policy is sound and therefore plan that it will remain unaltered.

3. In Asia and the Pacific, the U.S. intends to continue to play a vital stabilizing role. We will maintain armed forces in the region and extend levels of military and economic assistance adequate to make that role effective.

4. The U.S. has no plans to alter its force deployments in the Republic of Korea. We are fully sensitive to the risk that any change in U.S. force deployments there could easily be misinterpreted by North Korea.

5. The U.S. will stand by its pledge to help complete your government's modernization plan for your armed forces as quickly as practicable.
P/henry cl kwan
(s. kwan speaker of state)
8 may 75

i understand your point of view.

i brought up the matter of person hill

how many members of army on tax

i can.

your point is perfectly justified.

i shall do my best.

thank you for your kind help.

i appreciate it & i spent a delightful time.

i appreciate a difference of opinion.

with regard,

p.

i would like to speak with you personally.

we have met in the past.

strongly suggest that we can proceed on this basis.

you said last night.

are you willing to do some more?

with regard,

p.

hope peter is well.

hi. frankly, we hope your stay

is pleasant.

that was quite possible. but may

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b.o. 1295/6, sec. 3.5
state dept. classification: 5/4/69
by, nara. date: 8/4/74
feels strongly about a thing. I wrote in 2010 about a thing.

The opposite is true for some. They don't want cooperation.

I also have a point of view. If you have

We have unity and security. They would have a democratic society. That is true for

I have my own views.