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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: North Korea

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Kim Young Sam
Interpreter: Tong Kim
Notetaker: Steven Aoki

DATE, TIME: June 22, 1994; 7:03 p.m. - 7:18 p.m.
AND PLACE: White House

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Hello, President Kim.

PRESIDENT KIM: Hello, how are you? I'm very pleased to hear your voice.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I'm pleased to hear from you. Thank you for taking my call on such short notice. I thought we should discuss the day's events.

I welcome the agreement between your government and North Korea to pursue a meeting between you and Kim Il Sung. I hope the discussions on June 28 go well, and that you can move promptly to a summit.

As you know, we received information this afternoon that North Korea is willing to freeze the major elements of its nuclear program while a new round of talks between our nations proceeds. They also assured us that while we go forward with these talks they will not reload their five-megawatt reactor or reprocess spent fuel. We have also been assured that the IAEA will be allowed to keep its inspectors and monitoring equipment in place at the Yongbyon facility to assure us these things are not done.

In response to the North Korean offer we are now ready to go forward with a new round of talks. No dates have been set, although North Korea has proposed July 8. I think this development is very positive, and restores the basis for talks between North Korea and the United States.

We have not solved the problem, but this creates the opportunity to solve it. It's absolutely critical that we stay together on this, stay in touch and pursue the same course.

PRESIDENT KIM: Yes, Mr. President, I entirely agree. I understand that North Korea decided that it would not reload,

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would freeze its nuclear program and let IAEA inspectors remain to do their job. This all means that North Korea is ready to stop its nuclear operations. I evaluate the situation very positively.

Through the visit by President Carter, North Korea accepted Mr. Carter's proposal on the summit. As a result, North Korea informed us it would accept a preliminary meeting on June 28. We will know whether North Korea genuinely intends to hold the summit, based on the results of this meeting.

My perception is that unlike in the past, North Korea was very forthcoming in responding to our offers, so we have a very positive evaluation so far.

As you said, this does not solve the issue, but makes a resolution possible. We should be very prudent to cope with this situation. Our side and yours should cooperate very closely.

Close cooperation is important. Whenever an issue arises, we should discuss it. While working level cooperation will continue, whenever necessary, you and I should have discussions on the phone. This is very important and will send an important message to North Korea.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I strongly agree with that and I want you to know there are few matters as important as this to me. I want you again to know that any time of day or night you need to, please call me.

We will go forward, and must always be careful, must work with discipline and firmness on this.

PRESIDENT KIM: Yes, I agree with you. No other issue is as important as this. As for the intra-Korean summit, there is strong support by the people. In a recent poll, 93% of the Korean people support holding the summit. The agenda -- 60% said that the nuclear issue should be solved through the summit. This was an opinion poll taken two days ago. It shows strong interest by the people.

As you mention, the nuclear issue is most important. It's directly linked to the survival of the Korean people and to international peace. We will discuss it whenever necessary and cooperate very closely.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT KIM: Thank you very much. I'm very grateful for your call. Please convey my best wishes to Mrs. Clinton. Let me emphasize again that whenever we need to we should discuss matters on the telephone.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you and give my best to Mrs. Kim. Good bye.

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PRESIDENT KIM: Good bye.

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