

URGENT

January 23, 1985

To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: Kim Dae Jung: Open Forum

There seemd to be general agreement that Kim Dae Jung's appearance at the Open Forum this noon was a great success. The East Auditorium was filled to standing room only and very few people left before the end. Kim Dae Jung's speech is attached. He handled the questions well, coming across as pro-U.S. although critical of some aspects of USG policy and performance, and also strongly anti-Communist. His entire presentation emphasized support for democracy. There was much applause.

The lunch also went well (ref. attached list). There was lengthy discussion as to whether Kim would be willing to delay his return. The very short answer is that he would consider doing so, but only on condition that the ROKG would be much more forthcoming than it has been up to now. I walked back with Herbert Levin of S/P (ref. list). He gave his off the record opinion that we should have pressured the ROKG to permit Kim to visit Europe, before Seoul got itself into this confrontation.

Tom Murphy was present and may have other insights.

George Lister

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cc: JT-TM