

URGENT

January 28, 1985

To: Elliott Abrams

Subject: Kim Dae Jung Lunch

Kim Dae Jung called me Saturday morning to invite me to lunch with him and Mr. Lee at the Hay Adams. During lunch Kim asked me for my opinion of the Open Forum session and lunch. I said I felt it had gone very well, and I congratulated him. I assured him you had read his speech. I also mentioned that the Human Rights Reports would be coming out next week and that it would be advisable for Kim to take a copy of the South Korea Report with him. Kim asked me to get him a copy and I promised to do so as soon as it is legal.

Kim finally asked me about his return, whether I felt it was desirable for him to go back at this time. I replied that I did not feel competent to respond to that question because I was not close to the situation in South Korea. I said I had the impression it would have been better if the ROKG had agreed to permit him to visit West Europe, as Kim had desired, and to return to Seoul following the elections. Kim remarked it would be very difficult to delay his return now, because so many others are going with him.

George Lister

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cc: JT-TM



KOREAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

12 September, 1984

STATEMENT

Yesterday, I sent a registered letter to the South Korean President, Mr. Chun Doo Hwan, and had my staff hand deliver another letter to the American Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz.

In these two letters, I informed the governments of the Republic of Korea and the United States that I have decided to return to Korea by the end of this year.

I have made this decision for the following reasons:

First, I came to the United States in order to seek medical treatment for my hip injury, which resulted from a 1971 assassination attempt by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. I also decided to accept a long-standing invitation, first issued in 1972, to study at Harvard University.

I completed my fellowship tenure on 30 June of this year, and have also received sufficient medical attention.

Second, I have done my best to support the movement for human rights and democracy in South Korea from a distance for two years. Now, I think it is time for me to go back to participate directly in this movement, and to share the suffering of the Korean people. Indeed, I feel a moral obligation to take this step.

Third, I am deeply worried about the trends toward desperation and radicalization on the part of some of the Korean people. These trends have resulted from deep anger and long suffering from dictatorship, corruption, and social injustice. Therefore, many Koreans no longer believe peaceful change is possible.

I believe my presence in Korea is urgently needed to convince our people that they still can hope for peaceful democratization, and to work to make that hope a reality.

Fourth, I want to return to help our people achieve their national aspiration for the peaceful reunification of South and North Korea. We have seen no progress toward this goal so far.

Fifth, I want to undertake a dialogue with the Chun regime to find a solution to the crisis presently facing the Republic of Korea. Even though this regime totally lacks political legitimacy, I am willing to engage in such a dialogue if the government will respect the will of the people and guarantee such fundamental rights of the people as freedom of speech and fair elections.

When I return to my native land, my wife will accompany me.

Now, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the government of the United States of America for securing my freedom and safety in this country. Also, I would like to thank sincerely all my friends in the United States and other countries, and Korean people all over the world who have continuously supported me.

I ask for your concern and cooperation, so that I can return to Korea safely and without any complications.

Thank you very much.

Kim Dae Jung

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