

September 28, 1978

**Memorandum for Zbigniew Brzezinski from Nick
Platt, 'Your Appointment with Korean Foreign
Minister Park Tong-chin September 29'**

Citation:

"Memorandum for Zbigniew Brzezinski from Nick Platt, 'Your Appointment with Korean Foreign Minister Park Tong-chin September 29'", September 28, 1978, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Korea, Republic of 10/77-12/78, Box 43, Records of the Office of the National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski's Country Files, Jimmy Carter Library. Obtained by Charles Kraus <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/144957>

Summary:

Platt recommended Brzezinski to welcome President Park with the following talking points; authorization for transfer of \$800 million in military equipment to Korea and the visit of Defense Secretary to the ROK. He also mentioned some difficulties including Koreagate and Kim Tae-Jung in custody.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

23

MORANDUM

5800


NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~ GDS

September 28, 1978

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM: NICK PLATT *NP*SUBJECT:  Your Appointment with Korean Foreign
Minister Park Tong-chin September 29

ROK Foreign Minister Park Tong-chin's call on you at 2:00 will be the main event of his visit to the United States this time. He has come down from New York especially to see you. Cy Vance's Middle East trip made it impossible for him to meet with Park. You last met the Foreign Minister during your stop in Seoul May 25, and earlier attended the meeting in March 1977 when the President explained our troop withdrawal policy to Park.

Tactical Background

Park is primarily interested in sounding you out on the prospect of a Presidential Summit. Because Kim Dong-jo's letter to Congress has not been helpful on Koreagate, you can do little more than agree in principle to the idea of a Summit, and put off discussions on timing and modality until later. This meeting will, however, provide a helpful opportunity for you to make clear, without linking the issues explicitly, that progress on human rights is a prerequisite for a Presidential Summit. You want to avoid any effort by Park to starting a negotiating process, or bargaining. Ambassador Gleysteen has instructions to begin talks with President Park after the policy on Kim Dong-jo is sorted out. (Gleysteen, by the way, may be back for consultations next week on this topic.) Accordingly, I recommend you welcome Park and take the floor immediately, making the following points:

Talking Points

-- The US-ROK relationship has improved markedly since we met last May. The successful Security Consultative Meeting in San Diego in August underlined the firmness of U.S. security

~~SECRET~~ - GDS*Q 2/2/96*

~~SECRET~~ GDS

2

guarantees to the ROK and our mutual confidence that the adjusted troop withdrawal schedule will not affect the military balance on the Korean peninsula.

-- Authorization for transfer of \$800 million in military equipment to Korea indicated the firm belief of Congress in the U.S. commitment to Korea.

-- The visit of Defense Secretary Brown to the ROK in November will further strengthen security ties.

-- The agreement to conduct policy planning talks with the ROK next spring will provide a welcome opportunity to discuss broad strategic issues informally. It is the mark of a more mature relationship between us.

-- After the strains of the past two years, we look forward to a new, positive era in our relationship. Much remains to be done, however, to set the stage and create the right atmosphere in Congress and among the American public. Specifically, it will be difficult to create the right atmosphere as long as

- Koreagate remains a live issue;
- Kim Tae-jung remains in custody;
- The Emergency Decrees, particularly Emergency Measure 9, remain in effect.

When Park asks you about the prospects for a Summit meeting,

-- Agree that a meeting is important and should be held at an appropriate time in the future.

-- Discussion of specific plans is premature at this point.

Park will be interested in your view of the changing scene in East Asia and of the likely developments over the next year. He would be interested, time permitting, in:

-- The U.S. view of the PRC/GOJ Peace and Friendship Treaty.

-- The prospects for normalization with the PRC and with Vietnam.

~~SECRET~~ GDS

~~SECRET~~

3

-- The U.S. view of the PRC/Vietnam/Cambodia conflict.

You may want to ask him:

-- His assessment for meaningful discussions between North and South Korea. (We remain committed to the principle that future discussions with North Korea must include the full participation of the ROK.)

-- The state of ROK-Japan relations and the prospects for contact with the PRC and the USSR.

I attach for your background a report of Dick Holbrooke's conversation with Park in New York last week (at Tab A).

~~SECRET~~ - GDS