

March 17, 1980

Potential Solarz Codel to North and South Korea

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Summary:

The note recounts a discussion with the South Korean Ambassador regarding Congressman Solarz's intention to visit North Korea.

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DATE 03/17/90

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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WHSR COMMENT:

ALBRIGHT
EOB:GREGG

MESSAGE ANNOTATIONS:

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MESSAGE:

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4910

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NOBIS
E.O. 29085: RDS-5 3/15/90 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M
TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ), PEPR, KN, KS, US
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SOLARZ CODEL TO NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA
REF: STATE 00755

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. DURING A SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR KIM YONG SHIK TODAY, I REVIEWED THE SOLARZ PROBLEM, POINTING OUT THAT EVEN IF HIS VISIT TO NORTH KOREA WAS DELAYED IT ALMOST SURELY WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE MUCH LONGER. I SAID I SHARED THE SOUTH KOREAN CONCERN THAT THE VISIT COULD BE SEEN AS MUCKING UP THE NORTH/SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE AT A DELICATE TIME, BUT SOLARZ HAD HIS OWN REASONS FOR WANTING TO GO AND IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO TRY TO BLOCK HIM OR ANNOY HIM. THUS, IF HE WENT I SUGGESTED THAT HE FIRST COME TO SEOUL AND HAVE A GOOD VISIT WITH ROKG OFFICIALS WHO COULD EXPLAIN THE ROKG'S POLICY.

3. KIM, WHO NOTED THAT I HAD ALREADY TALKED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT THE MATTER SOMETIME AGO, SEEMED VERY RELAXED. HE SAID HE AGREED WITH ME. I'M LUNCHING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER NEXT WEEK AND WILL DO MY BEST TO PAVE THE WAY FOR "A FELICITOUS HIGH-LEVEL RECEPTION" FOR THE CONGRESSMAN. NONE OF US CAN MAKE THE SOUTH KOREANS LIKE WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO, BUT WE CAN URGE THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS NOT BEHAVE LIKE ROTTERS.
GLEYSTEN

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BY [Signature] NARS. DATE 4/3/97