

August 1, 1969

**Note, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North
Korea's Efforts to Establish Trade Missions in
Western Europe (in English)**

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Summary:

The note points out the North Korean mission in Paris (since 1968) and the intent of both the Swiss and the Austrians to establish similar missions soon. It mentions the drying up of significant communist loans as a motivation for Pyongyang's increasingly Western economic orientation, particularly through machine and equipment import.

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6. NORTH KOREA-WESTERN EUROPE: ^{SECRET} PYONGYANG IS MAKING SOME PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING NEW TRADE OFFICES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

7. SWITZERLAND HAS INDICATED IT WILL ALLOW NORTH KOREA TO OPEN A SMALL SEMI-OFFICIAL TRADE OFFICE IN ZURICH. THE KOREANS ALSO ARE EXPECTED TO RE-ESTABLISH A TRADE MISSION IN VIENNA AFTER AN AUSTRIAN-NORTH KOREAN TRADE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED LATER THIS MONTH. THE KOREANS HAVE HAD AN UNOFFICIAL TRADE MISSION IN PARIS SINCE 1968.

8. PYONGYANG'S ENDEAVORS ARE PARTLY AIMED AT CHANGING ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, BUT NORTH KOREA ALSO IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE OPERATING BASES IN WESTERN EUROPE THAT WILL FACILITATE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS. WITH THE DRYING UP OF SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST GRANTS OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, PURCHASES OF WESTERN INDUSTRIAL GOODS HAVE BECOME MORE IMPORTANT TO NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

9. ALTHOUGH CREDIT RESTRICTIONS LIMIT NORTH KOREAN PURCHASES IN WESTERN EUROPE, PYONGYANG HAS TURNED INCREASINGLY TO THE WEST FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PLANTS, OCEAN VESSELS, ELECTRIC POWER EQUIPMENT, MACHINE TOOLS, AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PLANTS. PYONGYANG IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH SEVERAL WEST EUROPEAN FIRMS FOR PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS. IN 1968 IMPORTS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL WEST OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING WHOLE PLANTS, TOTALED \$13 MILLION, DOUBLE THAT IMPORTED IN 1967.

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