

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 127/81



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10 DOWNING STREET

SUBJECT

cc Master Set
THE PRIME MINISTER
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11 September 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

I am sorry that the shortness of your visit and my own prior commitments mean that we shall be unable to meet during your time in London. May I however warmly welcome you and your wife to this country and express the hope that you will have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend here after what will certainly have been a tiring series of visits to other European capitals. It is good that you know us well enough to come here for the private and informal part of your tour.

If I may say so, this reflects the close links and understanding which have existed for so long between our two countries. I know that you yourself have contributed much to this very happy relationship and it is particularly fitting that you and your wife should be with us again this weekend.

There is one particular matter which I would have mentioned had we been able to meet. As you may know, a British group led by GEC are bidding to supply electrical and mechanical equipment for lines 3 and 4 of the Seoul metro. I was very encouraged to hear that they have been included on the short list for this project. British industry has extensive experience in this field and I am confident that you will find that the GEC offer is technically strong and very competitive as regards price and credit terms.

I understand that Mr. Peter Blaker, the Minister of State for Defence, will be calling on you on Monday 14 September. I have asked him to mention this question to you but I wanted

/you

you to know of my own personal interest. The GEC bid incorporates substantial participation by Korean companies and I believe that their experience in working together on this project could well lead to further collaboration in the future.

I recall that in his letter to me of October 1980 about the Korean nuclear power programme, His Excellency President Chun Doo Hwan said that he had instructed the Korean Ministries concerned to enter into negotiations for the supply of British equipment and materials for other suitable projects. I therefore hope very much that your government will give careful and sympathetic consideration to GEC's proposals.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Mr. Nam Duck-Woo

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Yours sincerely

Ronald D. White

Mr. Nam Duck-Woo

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cc: FCO

SENT BY FCO

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