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ROGERS SEOUL DEPARTURE REMARKS AND NEWS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY ROGERS' DEPARTURE STATEMENT AND PRESS CONFERENCE AT KIMPO AIRPORT AS HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE SEOUL.

TEXT OF FORMAL DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

TO VISIT KOREA IS TO BE REMINDED FORCEFULLY OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT FACTS OF LIFE.

FOR ONE THING, IT REMAINS TRUE, THAT THE PRICE OF INDEPENDENCE IN MANY PLACES, INCLUDING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IS CONSTANT VIGILANCE. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR BY NOW TO ANYONE THAT THIS NATION IS MAINTAINING THE VIGILANCE NECESSARY TO SECURITY.

EACH NATION, OF COURSE MUST TAKE THE LEAD AND SUPPLY THE WILL TO DEFEND ITSELF. MY COUNTRY STANDS BY ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO OUR KOREAN ALLIES. THESE OBLIGATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPECTED. I BELIEVE THAT THE LOYALTY OF THE UNITED STATES TO ITS TREATY UNDERTAKINGS IS ONE OF THE CONSTANTS IN WORLD AFFAIRS-- AND A STABILIZING INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

WE ARE FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORY OF KOREA. YOUR THIRTEEN PERCENT RATE OF GROWTH LAST YEAR IS AN ACHIEVEMENT IN WHICH YOU CAN TAKE PRIDE.

OTHER NATIONS IN ASIA ARE MAKING RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. I HAVE FOUND THAT IN ALL CASES THIS KIND OF PROGRESS BRINGS WITH IT A GROWING SENSE OF NATIONAL CONFIDENCE-- AND A PROUD DETERMINATION BY LEADERS AND PEOPLE ALIKE TO STAND INDEPENDENTLY ON THEIR OWN FEET. THIS IS AS TRUE IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AS ANYWHERE ELSE.

YOUR COUNTRY IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE STAGE OF SELF-SUSTAINING ECONOMIC GROWTH. EQUALLY IMPORTANT ARE THE ADVANCES IN EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. THIS IS INDEED GRATIFYING. IT SHOWS WHAT CAN BE DONE BY AN INTELLIGENT AND VIGOROUS PEOPLE, WITH HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUING UNTIL YOU REALIZE YOUR FULL ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

THE THIRD POINT THAT STRIKES ONE WHEN TRAVELING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD IS THE GROWING SENSE OF REGIONALISM IN THE PACIFIC AND ASIAN WORLD. THERE IS A NEW FEELING OF INTER-DEPENDENCE. THERE IS A FRESH DETERMINATION TO COOPERATE FOR MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT. THERE IS A MOUNTING SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG THE NATIONS.

WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT THE COOPERATIVE WAY IS THE CORRECT AND CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN THIS AREA. YOUR LEADERS, I FIND, FEEL THIS JUST AS STRONGLY AS WE DO.

IN FACT I HAVE FOUND IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF KOREA THAT OUR VIEWS COINCIDE ON MANY OF THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF OUR TIME. THIS INCLUDES OUR DETERMINATION TO SECURE, THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE WITHOUT OUTSIDE FORCE OR PRESSURE FROM ANY QUARTER WHATEVER.

SO THIS VISIT HAS BEEN A VALUABLE ONE FOR ME AND MY ASSOCIATES. DISCUSSIONS IN PERSON SUCH AS I HAVE HAD HERE SERVE TO DEEPEN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

I CANNOT LEAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL AND VIGOROUS LAND WITHOUT EXPRESSING MY PERSONAL THANKS TO PRESIDENT PARK, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF KOREA FOR THE WARM AND GENEROUS HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ME AND MY PARTY.

G. REP, AS YOU KNOW IN THE RECENT MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY HERE OVER A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW A THIRD TERM FOR THE PRESIDENT. I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST, WAS THIS ISSUE DISCUSSED BETWEEN YOURSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS DURING YOUR VISIT HERE, AND SECOND,

WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES IN RELATION TO THIS ISSUE?

A. THAT QUESTION WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH ME BY ANY GOVERNMENT LEADERS SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN KOREA, AND I THINK THE REASON THAT IT WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH ME-- IT'S NOT A MATTER THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN AT ALL, SO I WILL HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE LAST PART OF YOUR QUESTION. THE INTERNAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN ANY COUNTRY IS SOMETHING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED WITH OR EXPRESS ANY OPINION ABOUT.

1. WAS THE QUESTION OF OKINAWA BROUGHT UP IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH THE PRESIDENT, OR THE PRIME MINISTER, OR THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A. YES, WE DID HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT OKINAWA AND I EXPRESSED TO SOME OF THE LEADERS OF KOREA GENERALLY WHERE WE STAND, AND THE FACT THAT WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION TO THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM WITH JAPAN. I POINTED OUT THAT I THOUGHT WE HAD MADE SOME PROGRESS AND I WAS ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION THAT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS AND THE PUBLIC OPINION OF JAPAN, AND THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THIS AREA OF THE WORLD, AND PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. MR. SECRETARY, CAN YOU TELL US YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY ORGANIZATION?

A. WE DIDN'T DISCUSS ANY PARTICULAR ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL SECURITY. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENCOURAGE ASIAN NATIONS TO COOPERATE IN REGIONAL WAYS-- IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD, THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD, THE CULTURAL FIELD, AND HOPEFULLY, IN THE SECURITY FIELD. WE HAD NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ANY PARTICULAR ARRANGEMENT.

7. DID YOU DISCUSS THE TROOP REPLACEMENT PROGRAM IN VIET-NAM TO ANY EXTENT?

A. YES, I DID. I DISCUSSED THAT WITH THE LEADERS OF THE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND I POINTED OUT TO THEM WHY WE HAD ENBARKED ON THIS POLICY AND WHAT OUR GENERAL APPROACH WAS TO THE SITUATION IN VIET-NAM. I REFERRED TO THE SPEECH OF PRESIDENT NIXON ON MAY 14 AND SAID THAT IT REPRESENTED OUR POLICY.

I ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PARALLELS ARE NOT THE SAME. IN KOREA OUR PRESENCE IS THE RESULT OF A UNITED NATIONS ACTION, AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME MILITARY ACTIVITIES HERE, THERE IS NO MAJOR CONFLICT. WE FEEL VERY DEEPLY THAT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KOREA IS NOT ONLY A RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR NATION, IT IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. SO, I DID ATTEMPT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE LEADERS HERE IN KOREA, AND I HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF KOREA, THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE TWO SITUATIONS ARE ANALAGOUS.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED U. S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM VIET-NAM WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION WITH THE ROK GOVERNMENT OF A ROK TROOP WITHDRAWAL IN VIET-NAM?

A. NO, THERE WAS NOT.

Q. IF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ORGANIZATION IS FORMED IN THE FUTURE IN THIS REGION, WOULD THE UNITED STATES ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN IT?

A. NO, I THINK THE PURPOSE OF A REGIONAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE AN ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF ASIAN NATIONS. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE SEVERAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS BOTH BI-LATERALLY AND MULTI-LATERALLY IN ASIA. SO I THINK WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS A SECURITY ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD INVOLVE ASIAN NATIONS AND NOT THE UNITED STATES OR WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS.

Q. WOULD YOU MIND COMMENTING ON YOUR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS DURING YOUR BRIEF VISIT HERE, WHETHER THEY BE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, OR WHATEVER.

A. I THINK PROBABLY MY PREDOMINANT PERSONAL OBSERVATION WAS THE FRIENDLINESS OF THE PEOPLE OF KOREA TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TOWARD ME AND MY PARTY.

THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT IN ALL OF MY CONVERSATIONS, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION, APPRECIATION WAS EXPRESSED FOR THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE OVER THE YEARS TO KOREA. IT'S REFRESHING TO ME --- AND THAT'S WHY I SAY IT'S A PREDOMINANT IMPRESSION --- IT'S REFRESHING TO HAVE SUCH UNANIMITY AMONG THE PEOPLE IN SHOWING THEIR APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS. SECONDLY, I THINK THAT THE IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR ECONOMY HAS BEEN QUITE DRAMATIC, AND WHEN YOU FLY OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE AS I DID BRIEFLY TODAY, YOU ARE QUITE IMPRESSED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION AND THE IMAGINATION THAT IS GOING INTO THE CONSTRUCTION, THE ROADS, ETC., AROUND SEOUL. I THINK THE THIRD THING THAT IMPRESSED ME WAS THE VIGOR AND VITALITY OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND PARTICULARLY THE TROOPS THAT WE SAW. I'M JUST GLAD WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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