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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation Between the
President and South Korean President
Roh Tae Woo

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Kelly, NSC, Notetaker
Chang Ho Lie, Interpreter

Roh Tae Woo, President of the Republic
of Korea

DATE, TIME
AND PLACE: January 27, 1989, 9:51-9:57 a.m.,
Oval Office

The President initiated the call and said he was sorry to call at such a late hour. He said the purpose of his call was to thank President Roh very much for his warm congratulatory message on his inauguration. He said he wished President Roh well and that he hoped he could visit Korea and call at the Blue House on his way back from his trip to Tokyo.

President Roh thanked President Bush for his call. He said the presidential inauguration deserved blessings not only from the American people but from all people of the Free World. He will be pleased to welcome the President's visit to Korea on his way back from his Tokyo visit. President Roh said he was wondering if the President could tell him about his visit schedule now, or later through normal diplomatic channels.

President Bush said General Scowcroft will contact the Korean Ambassador here regarding his detailed schedule. He said he will consult with President Roh on subjects, but would, in principle, like to agree on a visit and say today that he is planning to stop by Seoul. It will have to be a very brief visit, he said. He would like to say that his visit will solidify our relationship, and underscore the importance of U.S.-Korea relations.

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President Roh said he will look forward to the President's visit. He said the President's visit will enhance the security of the Far East and the friendship between our two nations. He said he hoped they would be able to discuss matters of mutual interest. President Roh said he will do his best to make the President's stay in Korea as comfortable as possible. He also said he hoped President Bush could play some tennis while visiting Korea.

President Bush thanked President Roh and said he was not sure whether he would be able to enjoy sports during the visit. He said our governments can work out details, but that he looks forward to seeing President Roh.

President Roh said that all of the Korean people and he will welcome the President's visit. He thanked him very much for the phone call.

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