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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

29 January 1992

Chronology of North-South Relations
1991-92

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

1 January 1991

(b)(3)

Kim Il-song's New Year address offers a modification of his 10-year old Koryo Confederation scheme, hoping to make it more palatable to the South and forestall a German-style reunification. [Redacted]

15 January 1991

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North and South sports officials agree to form a single team for the World Table Tennis Championships in Japan and the Sixth World Youth Soccer Championships in Portugal but differ over method of selection, training, and naming of the team leader. [Redacted]

16 January 1991

Onset of Persian Gulf air war; Pyongyang denounces United States and South Korean involvement. [Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

30 January 1991

North and South sports officials hold third round of talks aimed at forming unified teams for the World Table Tennis Championships and other international sports events but fail to make progress or set a date for the next talks. North Korea threatens to boycott sports talks in protest over US-South Korean military exercise Team Spirit-91.

(b)(3)

30-31 January 1991

First round of largely ceremonial Japan-North Korea normalization talks takes place in P'ounguana.

(b)(3)

8 February 1991

North Korea accepts South Korean letter requesting permission to pass through P'anmunjom to attend Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting hosted by P'yongyang in April. North Korea passes letters addressed to South Korea's three opposition parties--omitting the ruling party--proposing a reunification conference.

(b)(3)

11 February 1991

During sports talks at P'anmunjom, North and South Korea settle differences over formation of joint teams for two international sports events; first time in 45 years the two sides will play on the same team.

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18 February 1991

North Korea calls off talks between Prime Ministers to protest Team Spirit; P'yongyang also refuses to accept second letter from Seoul regarding IPU meeting.

(b)(3)

24 February 1991

Onset of Persian Gulf ground war.

(b)(3)

26 February 1991

North and South Korea sign agreement to form a single soccer team.

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2940

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

28 February 1991

(b)(3) South Korea officially asks International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to impose sanctions on North Korea if P'yongyang fails to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement by June.

11-15 March 1991

North Korea and Japan meet in Tokyo for second round of normalization talks. Pyongyang shows some flexibility on terminology for economic aspects but hardens position on travel for Japanese wives in the North. Tokyo stresses need for progress in North-South dialogue and signing of IAEA safeguards agreement.

(b)(3)

22 March 1991

(b)(3)

North Korean government paper *Minju Choson* calls on South Korea to drop plans for entry into United Nations, charging separate membership would destroy chances for reunification.

25 March 1991

Military Armistice Commission names South Korean general senior member of UN Command for first time. North Korea refuses to accept credentials

(b)(3)

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Pyongyang subsequently participates in regular low-level MAC meetings.

(b)(3)

27 March 1991

(b)(3)

North Korea grants permission for 25-member South Korean delegation to pass through P'anmunjom to participate in 85th IPU meeting in P'yongyang.

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2941

SECRET

[Redacted]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

(b)(3)

2 April 1991

South Korea proposes resumption of 11th round of Red Cross talks in P'yongyang. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

8 April 1991

South Korean Prime Minister proposes resumption of North-South Prime Ministerial talks in May. [Redacted]

9 April 1991

China opens trade office in Seoul. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

10 April 1991

North and South liaison officials meet at Panmunjom to exchange namelists for soccer players prior to team selection games. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

17 April 1991

South Korean President of World Korean Ethnic Festival Committee invites North Korea to send a team to the Second Ethnic-Korean Sports Meet in Seoul, scheduled for September. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

South Korean Defense Minister declares Seoul might conduct a commando raid on the North's nuclear reactor. North Korean response hints P'yongyang might withdraw its invitation to Seoul to attend the IPU meeting. [Redacted]

19-20 April 1991

Soviet President Gorbachev visits South Korea. [Redacted]

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(b)(3)

24 April 1991

Joint North-South table tennis team competes in Japan. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

29 April - 4 May 1991

South Korean assemblymen attend 85th IPU general meeting, hosted by P'yongyang. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

3 May 1991

North Korea refuses permission for IPU participants from Brazil, Romania, and Guatemala to transit P'anmunjom and visit Seoul. [Redacted]

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SECRET

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2942

SECRET

[Redacted]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

(b)(3)

6-9 May 1991

North Korean 70-member soccer contingent visits South Korea for team selection trials.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

10 May 1991

South Korean soccer team enters North Korea through P'anmunjom for final tryout game; first time a South Korean sports team has traveled to the North via P'anmunjom.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

18 May 1991

South Korean government announces plans to lift ban in June on North Korean publications in three stages, beginning with removal of restrictions on non-political North Korean publications and films.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

21 May 1991

Unified Korean soccer team leaves for Portugal to compete in Sixth World Youth Soccer Championship.

[Redacted]

22-25 May 1991

North Korea and Japan meet in Beijing for third round of normalization talks.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

28 May 1991

North Korean Foreign Ministry announces P'yongyang will apply unilaterally for UN membership, claiming that if South Korea joins alone, Seoul will present Korean issues in a biased manner.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

14 June 1991

Joint North-South Korean soccer team competes in Portugal.

[Redacted]

20-23 June 1991

Retired General Richard Stilwell and Professor Robert Scalapino pay unofficial visit to P'yongyang; hold talks with Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Party Secretary Kim Yong-sun.

[Redacted]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

24 June 1991
North Korea returns remains of 11 American soldiers, missing in action during the Korean war, to US Congressional delegation at Panmunjom. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3) **28-29 June 1991**
Pyongyang hosts ceremony to disband unified soccer team, and South Korea players return to the South through P'anmunjom. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **8 July 1991**
North Korea applies to join United Nations, surprising and disappointing Seoul which preferred a joint submission of applications. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **11 July 1991**
North Korean Prime Minister responds to South's call for resumption of Prime Ministerial dialogue by suggesting meeting in August; South Korea agrees. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **15 July 1991**
South offers its proposal for a pan-national celebration of 15 August (Liberation Day), suggesting a grand march from Mt. Paektu in the North to Mt. Halla in the South and family reunions on Chusok (Korean Thanksgiving) for people aged 70 and over. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **16 July 1991**
North Korea agrees to--but does not sign--an IAEA safeguards agreement in Vienna; stipulates agreement will enter into force upon ratification of its legislature. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **19 July 1991**
Working-level officials meet in P'anmunjom to arrange fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks on 27 August. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **20 July 1991**
Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Vice Chairman Yun Ki-pok proposes sending seven delegates to Seoul through P'anmunjom on 24 July to negotiate joint celebration of Liberation Day. [Redacted]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

(b)(3) **21 July 1991**
South Korea rejects North Korea's offer to send delegation to Seoul for 25 July meeting to arrange pan-national rally on 15 August; urges North to meet at P'anmunjom to discuss joint celebration, which includes cross-country march and academic symposium on reunification. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **22 July 1991**
North Korea agrees to accept 5,000 tons rice in exchange for coal and cement, according to South Korean trading company officials. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **27 July 1991**
South Korea ships 5,000 tons rice to North Korea on Grenadan freighter in first non-government direct trade between the two sides. North is expected to ship 40,000 tons coal to South as part of barter deal. [Redacted]

(b)(3) **31 July 1991**
North proposes resumption of sports talks aimed at forming a unified team for 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and suggests 17 August at P'anmunjom; South agrees. [Redacted]

(b)(3) South Korea says it will consider talks with North Korea to discuss nuclear nonproliferation but insists P'yongyang allow full international inspections of its nuclear facilities. [Redacted]

31 July 1991
North Korean judo athlete Yi Chang-su defects to South Korea during 17th World Judo Championships in Barcelona, Spain; arrives in Seoul on 4 August. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3) **3 August 1991**
Seoul press reports 5,000 tons of South Korean rice are unloaded at Najin Port in North Korea, completing the first publicly acknowledged direct shipment of goods between the Koreas. North's media do not report the transaction. [Redacted]

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

5 August 1991

(b)(3)

North and South Korean liaison officials meet at P'anmunjom for working level discussions on procedures and agenda for fourth round of full dress Prime Ministerial talks scheduled for 27-30 August; agree only to meet again on 10 August.

South Korea submits membership application to United Nations Committee on Admission of New Members.

(b)(3)

South Korean student Pak Song-hui, representing South Korean dissident organization, arrives in P'yongyang to participate in the North's reunification march and 15 August events. A second student joins her on 10 August.

(b)(3)

6 August 1991

(b)(3)

UN Committee on Admission of New Members meets and formally recommends favorable action on applications of North and South Korea.

8 August 1991

(b)(3)

United Nations Security Council unanimously approves resolution recommending UN membership for North and South Korea.

10 August 1991

(b)(3)

North and South Korean officials meet at P'anmunjom for working level discussions prior to fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks; agree only to meet again on 16 August.

12 August 1991

(b)(3)

North Korea's Olympic Committee Chairman Kim Yu-sun postpones sports talks--set to resume on 17 August--citing defection of judo athlete at an international judo tournament in Spain.

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2946

SECRET

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

16 August 1991

North and South Korea working-level officials hold third session of preliminary talks to discuss agenda for fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks. The two sides agree on little except to meet again but do not set a date. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

19-21 August 1991

Hardliners in Soviet Union attempt to overthrow President Gorbachev. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

19 August 1991

North Korean official proposes 27 August for next working-level discussions concerning fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks and suggests the full-dress talks be moved from P'yongyang to P'anmunjom. North Korea blames outbreak of cholera in the South to justify change of venue. [Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

21 August 1991

North-South working-level contacts at P'anmunjom again fail to reach agreement, stumbling over the North's insistence that the Prime Ministers meet in P'anmunjom instead of P'yongyang. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

21-22 August 1991

North Korea and Japan hold talks in Beijing on opening direct air links but fail to reach agreement or schedule future sessions. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

23 August 1991

At fourth contact of liaison officials, North and South Korea agree to postpone fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks until 22-25 October in P'yongyang. [Redacted]

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2947

SECRET

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[Redacted]

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

24 August 1991
Following funeral of three young men killed during a Soviet coup attempt, President Gorbachev resigns as General Secretary and urges the Communist Party to disband. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

26 August 1991
North Korean Foreign Ministry statement proposes three-way talks with South Korea and United States to discuss denuclearization of Korean Peninsula. [Redacted]

27 August - 2 September 1991
North Korea and Japan hold fourth round of talks aimed at normalizing relations. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

5 September 1991
Seoul reverses itself on student contacts and approves talks on sisterhood ties and exchange tours. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

7-12 September 1991
Pyongyang hosts Seventh Asian Ministerial Conference of Group of 77 (G-77); South Korea attends, becoming first official South Korean delegation to attend an international conference in the North. [Redacted]

11 September 1991
IAEA Board of Governors approves draft of nuclear safeguards agreement between North Korea and IAEA. [Redacted]

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2948

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

12 September 1991
IAEA adopts resolution demanding Pyongyang ratify safeguards and open its facilities to IAEA inspection. Pyongyang rejects resolution urging compliance with IAEA inspection standards, citing nuclear threat from United States and claiming international interference in North Korea's sovereignty.

(b)(3)

17 September 1991

(b)(3) Brief Pyongyang domestic radio message announces North Korea's admission to the United Nations; omits South Korea's simultaneous entry.

(b)(3) North-South student talks--scheduled to begin today--fail to open after Seoul denies South students permission to attend, objecting to political nature of the university festival.

24 September 1991

(b)(3) North and South students agree 120 South Korean students and academics will visit North Korea's Kim Il-song University on 8-15 October, and students from the North will visit South Korea's Konguk University in November.

24 September 1991

(b)(3) South Korean President Roh announces willingness to discuss conventional forces reductions with North Korea.

25 September 1991

(b)(3) Seoul conditions South Korean students' visit to North Korea on removal of political elements from agreement signed on 24 September, saying the political clauses violate stated purpose of the contact.

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2949

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

27 September 1991
President Bush announces United States will unilaterally eliminate short-range nuclear weapons from US around and naval bases.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

27 September - 8 October 1991
Premier Yon Hyong-muk and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam head delegation to New York to attend 46th session of United Nations General Assembly. Yon's address to the General Assembly reiterates perennial North Korean positions and limited optimism over President Bush's nuclear weapons initiative, but fails to offer timetable for implementation of safeguards agreement. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

28 September 1991
Foreign Ministry statement officially welcomes US announcement on withdrawal of nuclear weapons, stating that if the weapons are withdrawn, "the way will be opened" to sign a safeguards agreement. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

3-15 October 1991
Kim Il-song travels to China for talks with Chinese leaders and visits to industrial facilities. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

8 October 1991
North Korean student delegates arrive at P'anmunjom to discuss university student exchanges but South Korea blocks South students from attending. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

14, 17 October 1991
North and South Korean liaison officials meet at P'anmunjom to discuss arrangements for fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks in P'yongyang. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

15 October 1991
South Korean Olympic Committee urges resumption of sports talks in November [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

19 October 1991
Washington hosts first soccer game between North Korean and US teams. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

23-25 October 1991
Pyongyang hosts fourth round of Prime Ministerial talks; both sides agree to draft nonaggression and reconciliation pact. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

28 October 1991
Two South Korean dissident students--in Pyongyang since August Liberation Day events--depart North Korea for Berlin. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

30 October 1991
North Korean Olympic Committee rejects South's offer to resume fifth round of sports talks, demanding return of defector. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

8 November 1991
South Korean President Roh declares commitment to eliminate all nuclear and chemical/biological weapons from the South and calls on the North to take corresponding steps. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

9 November 1991
North and South Korean women leaders meet at P'anmunjom; agree to hold women's seminar in Seoul 25-30 November. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

11 November 1991
First inter-Korean working-level talks to discuss contents of joint-Korean basic accord take place in P'anmunjom. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

15 November 1991
Second round of working-level talks to draw up joint agreement meets at P'anmunjom. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

18-20 November 1991
North Korea and Japan hold fifth round of talks in Beijing aimed at normalizing relations; make little progress. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

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SECRET

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments**Related Events****20 November 1991**

(b)(3) Third round of working-level talks to draw up joint agreement meets at P'anmunjom. [redacted]

25 November 1991

(b)(3) North Korean Foreign Ministry issues four-point proposal for a nuclear-free Peninsula and hints at readiness to sign an IAEA safeguards agreement. [redacted]

25-29 November 1991

(b)(3) North Korean women's delegation arrives in Seoul to participate in the "Peace in Asia and Women's Role" seminar. Delegation returns home ahead of schedule when South Korean officials refuse to allow them to carry out political propaganda events. [redacted]

26 November 1991

(b)(3) Fourth round of working-level talks to draw up joint agreement meets at P'anmunjom. [redacted]

30 November - 7 December 1991

(b)(3) Unification Church leader Rev. Mun Son-Myong visits North Korea; meets with Kim Il-song who expresses desire to visit the United States if invited. [redacted]

2, 5 December 1991

(b)(3) North and South Korean liaison officials meet at P'anmunjom to arrange itinerary for fifth round of Prime Ministerial talks on 10 December. [redacted]

10-13 December 1991

(b)(3) Seoul hosts fifth round of Prime Ministerial talks; North and South agree to sign reconciliation agreement and meet again to resolve nuclear issues. [redacted]

13 December 1991

North and South Korea sign basic agreement, entitled *Agreement Concerning Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Exchange, and Cooperation Between the South and the North** which calls for:

* Referred to as the Reconciliation Agreement for remainder of text.

SECRET

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2952

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

- Recognition of and mutual respect for each other's political system, suspension of slander, noninterference in domestic affairs, refrainment from sabotage, and establishment of liaison offices at P'anmunjom.
- Non-use of arms and formation of military committee to work out verification measures for arms control.
- Joint efforts to promote economic, press, and people exchanges, reunion of separated families, reconnection of road, air, sea, and land routes, inter-Korean trade, joint ventures, and establishment of committee for economic exchanges and cooperation.
- The agreement to be in effect upon completing the necessary procedures. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

14 December 1991
North Korea offers sanctuary to former East German leader Erich Honecker for health and humanitarian reasons. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

17-19 December 1991
US Congressman Solarz visits Pyongyang and meets with Kim Il-song. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

18 December 1991
 South Korean President Roh declares the South is free of nuclear weapons. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

SECRET

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SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

26 December 1991

North and South Korean officials agree on draft proposal at P'anmunjom meeting to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. P'yongyang agrees to scrap nuclear reprocessing and enrichment facilities. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

24 December 1991

Kim Chong-il, Kim Il-song's son and designated successor, is named Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army at party plenum session, another step in the succession process. In same session, the Korean Workers Party endorses the North-South Reconciliation Agreement. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

26 December 1991

P'yongyang media report resignation of Soviet President Gorbachev and the declaration stating the Soviet Union ceases to exist with the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

Late December 1991

Two South Korean dissident students who visit the North illegally apply for political asylum in Germany. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

31 December 1991

The two Koreas issue a joint statement that the nonnuclear declaration will be signed by the Prime Ministers in their respective capitals with the signed copies exchanged at P'anmunjom on 14 and 21 January. Known officially as the *Joint Declaration for a Nonnuclear Korean Peninsula*, the agreement calls for the North and South:

- To refrain from testing, manufacture, production, acceptance, possession, stockpiling, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons.
- To use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes.

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SECRET

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2954

SECRET

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

- Not to possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.
- To make inspections of objects chosen by the other side and mutually agreed upon through procedures and methods defined by the North-South Joint Committee of Nuclear Control to verify denuclearization of Peninsula.
- Shall form and operate the Committee within one month after the publication of the joint declaration in order to implement it. [redacted]

(b)(3)

Outside the agreement, the North promises to sign and ratify an IAEA safeguards agreement, and the South announces suspension of annual US-South Korean military exercise Team Spirit. [redacted]

(b)(3)

1 January 1992

Kim Il-song's New Year address applauds recent successes and agreements in North-South dialogue. [redacted]

(b)(3)

3 January 1992

North Korea announces its intention to sign and implement IAEA safeguards agreement contingent on the United States clarifying the absence of nuclear weapons on the Peninsula. [redacted]

(b)(3)

7 January 1992

South Korea cancels US/South Korean military exercise "Team Spirit 92." [redacted]

(b)(3)

North Korea confirms it will accept inspections of its nuclear facilities after signing a safeguards agreement by the end of January, apparently dropping the precondition that Washington announce the withdrawal. [redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

9 January 1992

North and South Korea agree in principle to inaugurate three subcommittees on political affairs, military affairs, and economic exchanges and cooperation in accordance with 13 December Reconciliation Agreement.

(b)(3)

11 January 1992

South Korean government announces plans to increase inter-Korean cooperation fund to \$132 million.

(b)(3)

14 January 1992

North and South Prime Ministers exchange signed copies of the Joint Declaration for a Nonnuclear Korean Peninsula for cosigning.

(b)(3)

15 - 26 January 1991

South Korea's Daewoo Chairman visits North Korea; meets with Kim Il-song who expresses willingness to meet with President Roh. Daewoo strikes \$80 million joint venture deal and announces plans to invest in Haiju, special economic zone designated for South Korean businesses.

(b)(3)

20 January 1992

South Korean trade and industry officials report trade between the Koreas totaled \$192.17 million in 1991, an eight-fold increase over 1990.

(b)(3)

21 January 1992

Working-level officials at P'anmunjom re-exchange the Denuclearization documents.

(b)(3)

22 January 1992

North Korean and US officials meet in New York for first-ever high-level discussions.

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2956

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

23 January 1992

North and South Korean working-level delegates hold discussions on forming three subcommittees--political, military, and exchange and cooperation--when the Reconciliation Agreement takes effect on 19 February. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

24 January 1992

North Korea and Japan successfully conclude negotiations in Beijing to increase charter flights between the two countries to 80 flights per year. [Redacted]

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SECRET

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2957

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

LOOKING AHEAD

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

29 January 1992

North and South Korean working-level delegates due to meet at P'anmunjom to continue discussions on subcommittees and establishment of a joint North-South liaison office at P'anmunjom. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

30 January 1992

North Korea scheduled to sign IAEA safeguards agreement in Vienna. Austria, according to announcement by North Korean Ambassador to Austria. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

30-31 January 1992

Sixth round of Japan-North Korea normalization talks scheduled in Beijing

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

16 February 1992

Kim Chong-il's 50th birthday; additional signs the succession is moving forward may emerge. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

19 February 1992

Denuclearization Declaration and Reconciliation Agreement take effect. [Redacted]

(b)(3)

[Redacted]

SECRET

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2958

SECRET

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

Inter-Korean Developments

Related Events

15 April 1992
Kim Il-song's 80th birthday.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

25 April 1992
Armed Forces Day--60th anniversary of founding of Korean Peoples Army.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

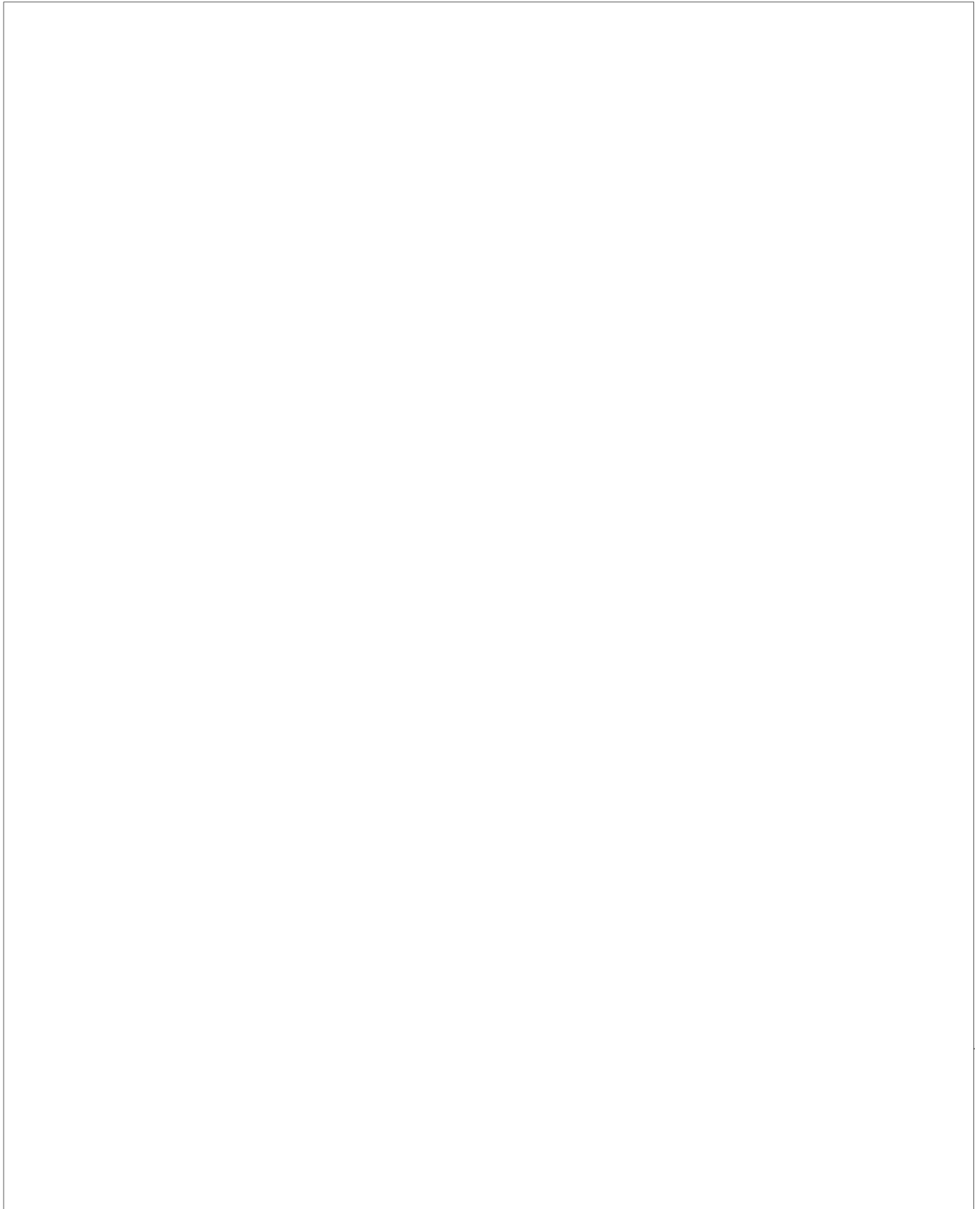
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SECRET

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2959

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