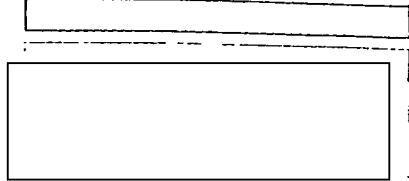


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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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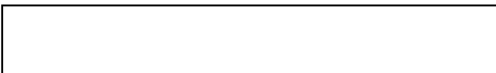
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EAST ASIA

South Korea:

Addressing Concerns Over US-North Korean Talks 

President Kim Dae-jung supports Secretary Albright's visit and a possible Presidential trip to North Korea as a vindication of his engagement policy despite domestic criticism and concern within his government that P'yongyang's focus on Washington comes at Seoul's expense. The North postponed economic, military, and humanitarian talks set for this month with the South.

Kim's winning the Nobel Peace Prize and hosting the Asia-Europe Meeting summit, together with increased European talks with the North and Secretary Albright's visit to P'yongyang, temporarily have muted domestic criticism of Kim's handling of engagement.

Public pressure on Kim will mount if the North does not deliver on pledges to the South.