

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

October 16, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT ✓

FROM: DR. KISSINGER AK

SUBJECT: Recent Developments in China's  
Relations with North Korea

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN~~

At Tab A is an analysis of recent developments in Sino-North Korean relations. I thought it might be of interest given the indication that China is attempting to create a "united front" with her Asian allies in support of the invitation for you to visit Peking.

The analysis makes the following points:

- 1) After a period of tension in its relations with Peking which began in the mid-1960s, Pyongyang began to reconsider its "hard line" positions both with respect to international relations and its dealings with South Korea in 1969. Internal economic problems and the failure of subversive missions in the Republic of Korea prompted this reconsideration.
- 2) North Korea's initial reaction to "ping pong" diplomacy, and the announcement this July of your trip to China was veiled criticism of the Chinese for its "illusions" about the U. S.
- 3) Peking appears to have gone to substantial lengths to gain Kim Il-song's backing for its flexible diplomacy. When Pyongyang dragged its heels in support of your trip to Peking, the Chinese dispatched Prince Sihanouk to North Korea to play the role of a mediator. At the end of Sihanouk's visit in early August, Kim Il-song finally gave public backing to Peking's initiative to the U. S.
- 4) In August Peking "repaid" North Korea for its support through economic and military aid agreements.
- 5) During August and September Kim Il-song has given evidence of having energetically picked up Peking's new flexible posture: In an unprecedented move he agreed to negotiate directly with South Korea's

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ruling Democratic-Republican Party to solve the reunification issue. He responded favorably to a South Korean offer to have Red Cross delegations meet at Panmunjom. There have now been a successful series of these humanitarian contacts between North and South Korea--the first such meetings on Korean soil in 26 years.

6) In a final section, the analysis suggests that while concern with Japan and the Soviet Union's "hard" actions against Czechoslovakia and China have brought Peking and Pyongyang together, the issue of how to resolve the reunification of Korea appears to be a continuing point of contention between the Chinese (who seem to favor a multilateral approach) and the North Koreans (who stress a bilateral solution).

This analysis thus describes the background of what appears to be an on-going Chinese effort to prepare a negotiating position for our talks which will deal with the issue of the American military presence and economic/military assistance to countries on her periphery in a manner acceptable to North Korea and North Vietnam.