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TAGS: OVIP (ALBRIGHT, MADELEINE K), PREL, MARR, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY ALBRIGHT BRIEFS PRESIDENT KIM ON DPRK  
TRIP AND IMPRESSIONS OF KIM JONG IL

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CAROL Z. PEREZ FOR REASON: 1.5 (D).

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2. (U) OCTOBER 25, 2000, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, SEOUL,  
KOREA.

3. (U) PARTICIPANTS

U.S.:

THE SECRETARY

AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA STEPHEN W. BOSWORTH  
AMBASSADOR WENDY SHERMAN, COUNSELOR OF THE DEPARTMENT  
MR. STANLEY ROTH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND  
PACIFIC AFFAIRS

AMBASSADOR CHARLES KARTMAN, EAP  
MR. CHARLES L. PRITCHARD, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS  
MR. BRIAN GOLDBECK, EMBASSY SEOUL POLOFF(NOTETAKER)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior Reviewer**

MR. TONG KIM, INTERPRETER

ROK:

PRESIDENT KIM DAE-JUNG  
FOREIGN MINISTER LEE JONG BIN  
MR. KIM HA-CHUNG, SENIOR SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
NATIONAL SECURITY, BLUE HOUSE  
MR. PAK CHUN-YOUNG, PRESS SECRETARY, BLUE HOUSE  
MR. SONG MIN-SON, NORTH AMERICAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

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MR. LEE SOO-HYUK, SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
NATIONAL SECURITY, BLUE HOUSE  
MS. KANG KYUNG-HWA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (INTERPRETER)

SUMMARY

4. (2) SECRETARY ABBRIGHT COALEBDDON PRESIDENT KIM DAE JUNG  
ON OCTOBER 25 TO BRIEF HIM ON THE RESULTS OF HER OCTOBER  
23-25 VISIT TO PYONGYANG. THE SECRETARY DESCRIBED HER  
IMPRESSIONS OF KIM JONG IL FINDING HIM TO BE A WELL-  
INFORMED, AND IN CHARGE BUT WAKING ONE ECONOMIC. SHE  
SECRETARY REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HER DISCUSSIONS,  
INCLUDING KIM'S HINT THAT THE DPRK WOULD PERMANENTLY  
STOP MISSILE LAUNCHES. PRESIDENT KIM TOLD THE SECRETARY  
CHAIRMAN KIM IS DRIVEN BY PRAGMATISM AND IS UNLIKELY TO  
REVERSE COURSE ON OPENING UP A MORE PRAGMATIC ECONOMIC  
BE REPORTED SEPT TEL ENDS SUMMARY.

DEALING WITH CHAIRMAN KIM

5. (3) PRESIDENT KIM BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY MENTIONING THE  
GROWING SENSE OF ENERGY ON THE PENINSULA. KIM SURPRISED  
THE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE FELT THE SAME KIND OF ENTHUSIASM  
HE HAD FELT DURING HIS JUNE VISIT TO PYONGYANG. DPRK

LEADER KIM JONG IL HAS A HABIT OF CREATING SURPRISES,  
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PRESIDENT KIM SAID, READJUSTING AND JUGGLING SCHEDULES AS  
THE SECRETARY HAD JUST EXPERIENCED DURING HER VISIT TO  
PYONGYANG. BOTH SECRETARY ABBRIGHT AND PRESIDENT KIM  
AGREED THAT ADVANCING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH  
CHAIRMAN KIM TO HER FIRST DAY HAD BEEN BENEFICIAL AS IT  
HELPED THE SECRETARY'S SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE.  
IN ADDITION, THE SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO BE HELD TO  
HAVE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AND SOCIAL EVENTS WITH CHAIRMAN  
KIM, WHICH TOTALLED ABOUT TWELVE HOURS OVER THE TWO DAYS OF  
HER VISIT.

GETTING TO KNOW KIM JONG IL  
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6. ~~(S)~~ THE SECRETARY SAID THAT CHAIRMAN KIM APPEARED WELL-INFORMED AND COMFORTABLE ABOUT SPEAKING ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. KIM SAID HE HAS THREE COMPUTERS IN HIS OFFICE AND USES THE INTERNET -- HE EVEN ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WEB ADDRESS. WHILE CHAIRMAN KIM IS INQUISITIVE, ASKING MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REGION AND RELATIONSHIPS, HE DID NOT ASK ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE U.S. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID CHAIRMAN KIM HAD DESCRIBED PRESIDENT KIM'S LIFE AS TRULY REMARKABLE -- GOING FROM DISSIDENT TO EXILE TO PRESIDENT, A LIFE THAT WOULD MAKE A GOOD MOVIE. THIS DREW A SMILE FROM PRESIDENT KIM, WHO REMARKED THAT CHAIRMAN KIM IS AN AVID MOTION PICTURE ENTHUSIAST, TO WHICH THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT CHAIRMAN KIM HAD TOLD HER EVERY TEN DAYS OR SO HE "CATCHES UP" ON THE LATEST FILMS AND QUIPPED THAT HE USUALLY AGREES WITH THE OSCAR NOMINATIONS.

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7. ~~(S)~~ SECRETARY ALBRIGHT OBSERVED THAT ALL HER MEETINGS AND EVENTS WERE VERY WELL ARRANGED AND SHE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT KIM JONG IL HIMSELF HAD GIVEN THE ARRANGEMENTS HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. KIM CHONG IL HAD PROVEN TO BE VERY POLITE, A GOOD LISTENER AND INTERLOCUTOR, AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS QUICKLY. KIM TREATED HIS SUBORDINATES WELL, LISTENING CAREFULLY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ADVICE OFFERED BY FIRST VICE FOREIGN MINISTER KANG SOK JU, AND THEIR EXCHANGES LACKED ANY TONE OF BOSSINESS. THE SECRETARY SAID KIM HAD ALSO BEEN

PROTECTIVE OF HER BY MINIMIZING THE NUMBER OF TOASTS WITH SUBORDINATES AND ASKING A DANCE TROOP TO DO A CZECH DANCE IN HER HONOR. THE SECRETARY SAID SHE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT KIM'S MOOD MIGHT SOMETIMES SWING BUT THAT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER HE WAS NEVER ANGRY. SHE NOTED THAT AFTER ONE BREAK FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION, KIM SEEMED TENSE, BUT HE WAS NEVER RUDE.

PRAGMATISM AND INTERESTS DRIVE KIM JONG IL  
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8. ~~(S)~~ THE SECRETARY ASKED PRESIDENT KIM WHETHER KIM JONG IL'S POLICIES MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO SUCH "MOOD SWINGS" AS WELL, REVERSING COURSE JUST AS QUICKLY AWAY FROM HIS APPARENT NEW POLICY OF OPENING UP. PRESIDENT KIM SAID THAT, TEMPERAMENT ASIDE, CHAIRMAN KIM IS PRAGMATIC AND WOULD NOT CHANGE COURSE UNLESS THERE IS SOME SETBACK. PRESIDENT KIM SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO KIM JONG IL THAT

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IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IS A "MUST" FOR THE DPRK'S SURVIVAL BOTH IN TERMS OF SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE HAD ALSO TOLD CHAIRMAN KIM THAT SOUTH KOREA MAINTAINS A CLOSE TRILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND JAPAN AND COOPERATES WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA, SO WHY SHOULDN'T THE DPRK GET ALONG AS WELL WITH JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT KIM SAID THAT AT A DINNER IN NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER WITH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN THINK TANK REPRESENTATIVES HE HAD IDENTIFIED AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THE SHIFT IN THE DPRK'S POLICY TO ALLOW U.S. FORCES TO REMAIN ON THE PENINSULA AFTER REUNIFICATION. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT KIM, THIS MOVE WAS DESIGNED TO HELP IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ILLUSTRATES KIM JONG IL'S PRAGMATISM. THE POLICY COULD NOT EASILY BE REVERSED, SINCE KIM MADE THE COMMENT BOTH IN PRIVATE TO HIM AS WELL AS PUBLICLY TO ROK JOURNALISTS.

CHAIRMAN KIM HINTS MISSILE LAUNCHES TO END

9. ~~(S)~~ SECRETARY ALBRIGHT DESCRIBED FOR PRESIDENT KIM TWO PARTICULARLY MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES RELATED TO A CULTURAL EVENT AT A STADIUM HOSTED BY CHAIRMAN KIM ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF HER VISIT. BEFORE CHAIRMAN KIM HAD ENTERED THE

STADIUM, 150,000 PEOPLE HAD WAITED SO QUIETLY ONE COULD HEAR A PIN DROP, THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN TOLD BY ONE MEMBER OF OUR ADVANCE TEAM. BUT WHEN HE AND SHE ENTERED, THE GROUP JUMPED TO ITS FEET AND SHOUTED HIS NAME IN ADULATION FOR THREE MINUTES. THE SHOW WAS CAREFULLY

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CHOREOGRAPHED AND THE TIMING AND EXECUTION FLAWLESS, A TRULY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. CHAIRMAN KIM TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN EVERY DETAIL OF THE PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS ARTFULLY FLIPPING CARDS TO CREATE DIFFERENT PICTURES. ONE TABLEAU PRESENTED A TAEPODONG MISSILE TAKING OFF, DURING WHICH CHAIRMAN KIM POINTEDLY TURNED TO THE SECRETARY TO SAY THE LAUNCH BEING PORTRAYED HERE WOULD BE THE "THE FIRST AND LAST" DPRK SATELLITE LAUNCH, WHICH HE REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR SHERMAN, WHO WAS SEATED AT HIS OTHER SIDE. THE SECOND MEMORABLE IMAGE WAS OF A MAP SHOWING A UNIFIED KOREAN PENINSULA ALL IN THE COLOR PINK.

WEAK ON ECONOMICS

10. ~~(S)~~ AT THE RECIPROCAL DINNER HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY ON OCTOBER 24, THE DISCUSSION TURNED TO ECONOMICS, AND THE SECRETARY SAID IT BECAME CLEAR THAT KIM'S UNDERSTANDING OF WESTERN ECONOMICS IS LIMITED. HOWEVER, KIM DID ADMIT HIS ECONOMY IS IN VERY BAD SHAPE. ENERGY SHORTAGES ARE CRITICAL, DUE IN PART TO A DROUGHT WHICH REDUCED HYDROPOWER. REGARDING ECONOMIC REFORM, KIM SAID HE HAD

ASKED RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN WHAT "OPENING UP" REALLY MEANT AND KIM SAID HE LIKED THE "SWEDISH MODEL" OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID SHE REMINDED KIM THE SWEDISH MODEL IS BASED ON AN ALREADY WELL-DEVELOPED ECONOMY. DURING THE DISCUSSION KIM ALSO NOTED THAT HIS FATHER WAS A SOCIALIST, NOT A COMMUNIST.

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POTATOES WERE GERMANY'S SALVATION -- BUT RICE STORES  
EASIER

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11. ~~(S)~~ ILLUSTRATING THE BREADTH OF THE DISCUSSION, THE SECRETARY SAID KIM HAD TALKED ABOUT POTATO FARMING, SAYING HE HAD READ THAT POTATOES HAD SAVED POST-WAR GERMANY FROM

FAMINE. BUT KIM NOTED THE DPRK HAD YET TO LEARN PROPER STORAGE METHODS FOR POTATOES, WHEREAS RICE IS MUCH EASIER TO STORE. HE CRITICIZED THE RUSSIANS FOR ENCOURAGING THE DPRK TO GROW CORN, A GRAIN BETTER SUITED TO FEEDING ANIMALS THAN HUMANS.

12. ~~(S)~~ AT THIS POINT, THE SECRETARY SUGGESTED THAT THE DISCUSSION CONTINUE WITH A SMALLER GROUP (REPORTED SEPTEL).  
ALBRIGHT

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