

TELEGRAM 066688

To: the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

From: the Romanian Embassy in Pyongyang

Subject: US – ROK talks

Date: July 30, 1977

Classification: Secret

In a discussion with Ambassador Dumitru Popa on July 28, Vice Premier Heo Dam noted that the recent US-ROK agreements in Seoul triggered discontent and even concern for the North Korean state and party leadership.

The personal letter President Carter addressed to Park Chung Hee also contains "direct attacks against the DPRK."

The result of the recent talks in South Korea between US Secretary of Defense Harold Brown and Park Chung Hee clearly proves that President Carter is not keeping his campaign promise regarding American troop withdrawal from South Korea. According to the existing agreement on the matter, the withdrawal is to be partial and gradual, concurrent with strengthening the South Korean navy and air force. The ROK is to receive all the equipment and armament of the withdrawn troops.

Heo Dam considers the recent decision to establish a joint US-ROK military command that will replace the current UN command "worrying."

The Korean official mentioned that the North Korean government will shortly publish a document expressing the DPRK's position regarding the recent American-South Korean talks and agreements.

Signed: D. Popa