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## The Secretary's Morning Intelligence Summary

June 27, 1994

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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## **DPRK/ROK: Shall We Dance?**

North and South Korea appear ready, concurrently, to move ahead in inter-Korean dialogue. On the rare occasions this has happened, as in 1972 and 1991, there was dramatic progress for a period of several months, then the

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process slowed and the two sides' normal suspicions of each other again began to dominate the relationship.

After the South's acceptance of the North's proposal for a summit last week, Pyongyang has signalled its seriousness by softening its anti-ROK rhetoric. Criticism of Seoul will not cease until talks actually begin; but in place of the once routine personal attacks on President Kim Young Sam, DPRK media now complain only about "South Korean rulers." In another positive gesture, the North on June 25 announced that its delegation to tomorrow's talks for setting up an inter-Korean summit will be led by Kim Yong Sun, party secretary in charge of North-South affairs and considered by many in the South to represent a relatively pragmatic strain of thinking in Pyongyang. Kim, who is close to the top leadership, led the North Korean delegation to the first high-level US-DPRK talks in January 1992.

Seoul is carefully reciprocating the positive signals from Pyongyang, in large measure due to Unification Minister Yi Hong Ku, who will lead the ROK delegation to tomorrow's meeting. Yi was influential in shaping the flexible ROK approach that helped make possible the North-South prime ministerial talks beginning in 1990. With the backing of President Kim, Yi has made clear he intends to avoid posturing over unimportant procedural details, which frequently has bogged down the two sides, and move quickly to a summit. For now, volatile South Korean public opinion is largely in favor of a summit, and anti-dialogue hard-liners in Seoul are laying low. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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