

WELCOMING REMARKS

on the Occasion of the Visit
to the National Assembly
by H.E. President and Mrs. George Bush
of the United States of America

February 27, 1989

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Speaker
National Assembly
Republic of Korea

Your Excellency President and Mrs. Bush, honorable members of the presidential entourage, distinguished guests, and fellow Assemblymen,

It is on behalf of my fellow members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea that I welcome with all my heart today President George Bush of the United States of America and his wife, Mrs. Barbara Bush, back to this law-making body.

Mr. President, you know that you are not a stranger in this building. It was seven years ago that, then as Vice President of the United States of America, you paid us your first visit, commemorating the centennial of the diplomatic ties between Korea and the United States. The tree that you planted in front of this building at that time is still growing well. We have considered the tree as part of your heart that you left behind with us. Our feeling of friendship towards you has grown as the tree grew.

Mr. President, in your inaugural address, you spoke of a "new breeze" blowing. You said that "great nations of the world are moving toward democracy -- through the door to freedom." You also spoke about an "age of the offered hand." Yes, I am happy to say that the very "new breeze" that you spoke of is blowing here in Korea, too, and the very "new age of the offered hand" is unfolding here in Korea, too.

After great pains and struggle, the people of Korea have just established a democratic government fully baptized with clear legitimacy. This Assembly Hall is now filled up with representatives of the Korean people of all walks of life, without any one left neglected.

And we are now putting out our hands to the United States with a renewed sense of friendship. We hope that you, Mr. President, will hold them with your own, accepting us as a partner in the march toward true freedom.

My fellow Assemblymen, I am now asking Mrs. Bush in the Viewers' Gallery to stand up momentarily so that she may be recognized by us all.

I now introduce to you President George Bush of the United States of America.