

July 1992... Negotiators from North and South Korea meeting at Panmunjom on 28 July have agreed to open at least 2 sea routes to allow travel and possibly the exchange of goods between the two countries. The agreement also provides for opening an overland route between the 2 sides, though they have yet to specify which land or sea routes are to be used. [FEER-B, Aug.6]

While Seoul officials refuse to give exact figures, observers say the number of defections of North Koreans abroad increased significantly after 1989. [FEER-B, Aug.6]

A US Defense Department report says the US plans to maintain key infantry and air force units in S. Korea as a deterrent to war on the Korean peninsula. But, according to the report, it could consider disbanding the ROK-US Combined Forces Command when the North Korean threat eases substantially. (28th) [KJDA-W]

August 1992: Members of the inter-Korean Military Subcommittee meet at Panmunjom for their first contact to discuss inter-Korean nonaggression. (3rd) VP

The 8th round of inter-Korean Red Cross talks are held in Panmunjom. The two sides failed to work out details regarding the visit program. (7th) VP Red Cross officials from North and South Korea broke off their talks, scuttling their original pledge to allow reunion of families by 25 Aug. this year. North Korean officials insisted that the reunions could not proceed unless the South stopped demanding bilateral nuclear inspections. [FEER-B, Aug.20]

In an exclusive interview with the Korea Herald, President Roh Tae Woo said now is not the proper time to push for a collective security system in the Asia-Pacific region. (14th) [KJDA-W]

Pyongyang criticizes the annual South Korea-U.S. joint Command Post exercise, "Focus Lens," which started on August 17. (18th) VP

South Korea and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations formally ending more than 40 years of Cold War enmity. (24th) [KJDA-W]

South Korea and Russia initialled a treaty on basic relations that suggests regular meetings between top officials of the two countries. The treaty also prohibits either side from using armed threats or exercising force against the other. (26th) [KJDA-W]