

*Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009*

**Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea in Seoul, South Korea**

*November 19, 2009*

*President Obama.* Well, Mr. President—I was telling the President, and I think the delegation would agree, that this was the most spectacular ceremony for a state visit that we've been involved with since we've traveled. And I was saying that I especially enjoyed the traditional dress of some of the soldiers.

*President Lee.* But traditional uniforms are quite difficult to fight in. [*Laughter*]

*President Obama.* That's true, that's true.

*President Lee.* Well, first of all, Mr. President, welcome. And you're bringing very nice weather with you, because up until yesterday it was sub-zeros, frigid cold. [*Laughter*]

Well, once again, Mr. President, welcome to the Asian region, and of course, welcome to Korea. I know that your visit to Japan and China has been very successful. And, Mr. President, as we all like to say, you saved the best for last. [*Laughter*]

*President Obama.* Well, Mr. President, let me just say that we have been so gratified by the warmth with which we've been received here in the Republic of Korea. And I think there's every indication that the alliance between our two countries has never been stronger.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at the Blue House. President Lee spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

*Categories:* Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : South Korea, President Lee.

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*Names:* Lee Myung-bak.

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