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
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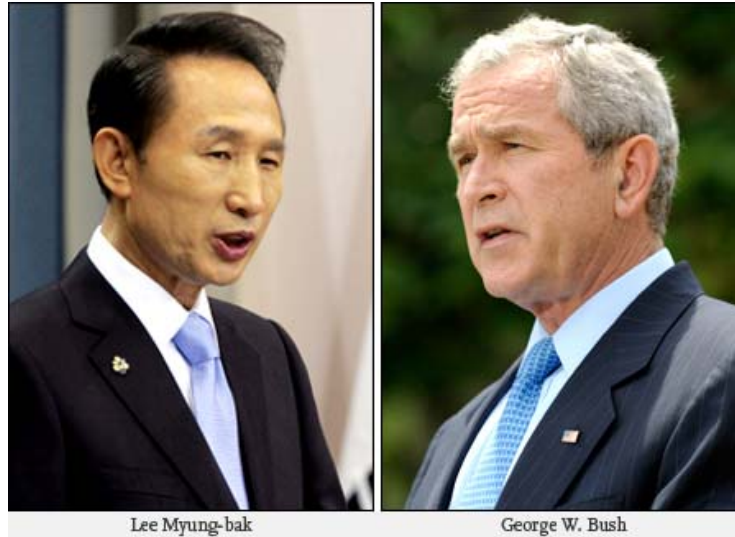
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07-28-2008 17:53

    PRINT
Lee, Bush to Discuss Dokdo

Lee Myung-bak

George W. Bush

By Na Jeong-ju
Staff Reporter

President Lee Myung-bak is expected to raise the issue of a U.S. geographical agency's decision to deny South Korea's sovereignty over the Dokdo islets during his planned summit with U.S. President George W. Bush in Seoul, early August.

Annoyed by the news that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) changed Dokdo's status to "undesignated sovereignty" from its previous recognition of it as South Korean territory, Lee instructed officials Sunday to deliver his concerns to the United States, according to Cheong Wa Dae.

"Given the strategic importance of Dokdo and the diplomatic impact of the BGN's decision on Seoul-Tokyo relations, Lee may raise it as a topic during his summit with Bush," an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said.

Cheong Wa Dae said it was too early to talk about a summit agenda.

"We are talking with U.S. officials through the embassy in Washington about the BGN's decision," a presidential spokesman said. "The question is why the BGN changed its stance on Dokdo. We are not sure yet about whether Lee will bring it up during his meeting with Bush."

Lee strongly scolded some diplomats over the BGN's decision, saying, "Such a thing shouldn't have happened," according to the spokesman.

Many observers say the government may dismiss Seoul's Ambassador to Washington Lee Tae-sik for lack of coordination with the U.S. government over Dokdo. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yu Myung-hwan also faces growing calls to step down for the recent diplomatic blunders regarding Dokdo and North Korea.

"Korea's embassy in Washington has been very busy preparing for Bush's visit to Seoul and working out details of the free trade agreement between Seoul and Washington," a foreign ministry official said. "It may have failed to pay attention to Dokdo because of the busy schedule."

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President Lee has shown no official regret over the U.S. agency's decision, but many officials in Seoul say it will pour cold water on Seoul's efforts to foster a stronger alliance with Washington. It is also a fresh blow to Lee's pragmatic diplomacy, which has been criticized for disputes with Japan and North Korea.

Bush plans to visit Seoul on Aug. 5-6 on his way to Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics, according to Cheong Wa Dae.

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wootaejun (125.129.158.236) 07-29-2008 22:29

I'm confused. Are they discussing the issue as the title claims? Are they not discussing the issue as the article states? Does Na Jeong-ju have his head up his ass? Or is that the editor of this rag? I'm so confussed.

darius (58.143.217.193) 07-29-2008 22:03

Iraq, Afghanistan, Election year, Dokdo, Subprime crisis, Iran nuclear program. Find the issue that no American cares about.

bostonjew (211.63.207.12) 07-29-2008 17:24

Major Problem is Japanese know Korean weakness but Koreans don't know there own " Korean" weakness plus Japanese weakpoint. This is sadest point of all. Koreans are good fingerpointing or blaming eachother but when " action or excecution" is needed in right moment Koreans disunite in right moment. Japanese and Chinese have known this about Koreans for 1,900 years. (Korean disease or Korean mental break).

bostonjew (211.63.207.12) 07-29-2008 17:20

Korean domestic political fighting for 30 years. Lack of Korean unity. (Japanese government took full advantage of Korean weakness). Its sad but its true who is to blame. Japanese? Koreans adopting " confuscianism" from China during 500 years Chosun Dynasty was the beginning Korean disunity. (Japan predicted and took Korean weakness for 500 years). Past, Present, Future.

korcan (70.70.20.156) 07-29-2008 16:19

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