

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 006660

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSD-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-14 SY-05
SYE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-07 PC-01 OPR-02 A-02
OMB-01 OCS-06 CA-01 ANAE-00 /112 W
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O 260807Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6565
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCPAC KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

SECTION 01 OF 02 SEUL 06660

E.O. 12065: GDS 05/26/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: ASEC PINS KS
SUBJECT: XGREAN SITREP, 1500, MONDAY, MAY 26, 1980

REF: SEUL 0644

1. [REDACTED]
2. SITUATION IN KWANGJU: DURING THE COURSE OF SUNDAY, MAY 25, EVENTS IN KWANGJU TOOK A SHARP TURN FOR THE WORSE. THERE WERE REPORTS OF VIGILANTE GROUPS, RECOVERY BY RADICALS OF WEAPONS TURNED IN EARLIER, AND EVEN OF PEOPLE'S COURTS AND EXECUTIONS. (THESE HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION.) ALL LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND SUPPLY INTO KWANGJU REMAINED CUT OFF. TV NEWSFILMS, SHOT FROM HELICOPTER AND SHOWN ON GOVERNMENT CHANNEL AT 9:00 P.M., MAY 25, SHOWED PEOPLE COOKING OVER OUTDOOR FIRES AND TRUCKS AND JEEPS WITH ARMED MEN ABOARD MOVING THROUGH STREETS. EARLY MAY 26, 200,000 PEOPLE WERE

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REPORTED "MILLING," BUT THIS HAS BEEN DISCOUNTED IN LATER REPORTING.

3. AT 2100, MAY 25, A LENGTHY MARTIAL LAW "ANNOUNCEMENT" WAS BROADCAST DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN KWANGJU (REF: FBIS SK 251405). ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AFTER SIGNS OF A SETTLEMENT, STUDENT HARDLINERS DECIDED MAY 24 TO "STRUGGLE TO THE END." ON THE MORNING OF MAY 25, THERE WAS CONFLICT BETWEEN THESE RADICALS AND MODERATES WITH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ⁹⁰⁰³⁶⁶⁸ IS; FPC/CDR ^{WRB} Date: 7/13/92

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EU Citations _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	IN PART	_____ TS authority to.
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MANY KILLED AND INJURED. THEREAFTER, RADICAL STUDENTS TOOK OVER MAJOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS, WARNED CITIZENS OF A PROTRACTED BATTLE AND CREATED A "WARLIKE ATMOSPHERE." THUS, "GRIPPED BY UNEASINESS AND HORROR, MOST OF THE CITIZENS OF KWANGJU ARDENTLY DESIRE THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO RESTORE ORDER." IN THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT THERE IS REFERENCE TO CASUALTIES CAUSED BY "THE ATROCITIES OF STABBING BY THE TROOPS."

4. AROUND 2300, MAY 25, A SPEECH BY PRESIDENT CHOI, JUST RETURNED FROM THE KWANGJU AREA, WAS BROADCAST (FBIS SK 251428). HE URGED STUDENTS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, CALLED FOR DIALOGUE, WARNED OF THE NORTH, PROMISED REHABILITATION AID, AND STATED THAT ORDER WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTORED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE OVERALL TONE OF THE SPEECH WAS REASONABLE AND CONCILIATORY. THE SPEECH WAS BROADCAST AGAIN DURING THE MORNING OF MAY 26.

5. WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION FROM KWANGJU AT PRESENT, ONLY THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF CITIZENS ARE REPORTEDLY GATHERING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THERE ARE REPORTS, INCLUDING FOREIGN NEWS REPORTS, THAT PRESIDENT CHOI HAS SET A MIDNIGHT DEADLINE FOR RESTORATION OF ORDER IN THE CITY OR TROOPS WILL MOVE IN. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY RUMORS THAT

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TROOPS BEGAN MOVING EARLY A.M. MAY 26 (E.G. KYODO REPORT THAT MARIJAE-LAW TROOPS MOVED INTO THE CITY BEHIND TANKS AT 0800 TODAY, BUT RETREATED 50 MINUTES LATER). ROK OFFICIAL SOURCES HAVE DENIED SUCH MILITARY MOVEMENT THOUGH WE KNOW 20TH DIVISION AND SPECIAL FORCES BATTALIONS ARE POISED.

6. KOREAN AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPLAINED TO US THAT BLOODY FIREFIGHTS YESTERDAY BETWEEN ARMY TROOPS AROUND KWANGJU WERE CAUSED BY MISTAKEN IDENTITIES AND GREEN TROOPS. ONE INCIDENT INVOLVED DIRECT HIT BY ARMY RECOILLESS RIFLE ON APC CONTAINING ARMY TROOPS.

7. GEN. WICKHAM HAS MET WITH THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, THE MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER AND THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY REGARDING THE PORTRAYAL BY KBS IN KWANGJU OF THE U.S. POSITION TO KWANGJU RESIDENTS AS ONE IN SUPPORT OF THE USE OF TROOPS. AMBASSADOR ALSO COMPLAINED STRONGLY TO BLUE HOUSE. IN ALL CASES THERE WAS CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER THIS INACCURATE PRESENTATION AND AN UNDERTAKING TO INVESTIGATE PROMPTLY. JCS CHAIRMAN LEW INFORMED US THAT THE KBS BROADCAST WAS A ONE-TIME ACTION TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION.

8. CONDITIONS IN SEDUL AND THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE

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SYE-00 DC-06 CCO-00 AID-07 PC-01 OPR-02 A-02
OMB-01 DCS-06 CA-01 ANAE-00 /112 W
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O 260807Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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SA CINCUNG KS
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COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

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9. NORTH KOREA/SOVIETS: FBIS HAS BRIEF REPORTS ON TWO RALLIES HELD IN PYONGYANG: ONE MAY 25, "TO DENOUNCE SUPPRESSIVE MEASURES" IN SOUTH KOREA; THE OTHER, MAY 24, AT WHICH SOVIET AMBASSADOR SPOKE, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF CH'ŌCHONGNYON (KOREAN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN JAPAN). EARLY TAKES INDICATE THAT THE RHETORIC SHOWS LITTLE OR NO CHANGE IN NK/SOVIET POSITIONS.

10. SHORTLY AFTER 1800 MAY 25 MOFA REQUESTED THAT WE URGE ALL AMERICANS TO LEAVE KWANGJU AND MOKPO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WITH THE HELP OF BPAO MILLER, WHO HAD JUST LEFT KWANGJU, AND CONSULAR RECORDS, WE WERE ABLE TO PASS A LIST OF THOSE AMERICANS THOUGHT STILL TO BE IN KWANGJU TO THE AMERICAN OIC AT THE NEARBY ROKAF BASE. TWENTY-FIVE OF THE AMERICANS WERE CONTACTED BY THE OIC. (NO CALLS ARE PERMITTED FROM SEOUL TO KWANGJU, BUT WE HAVE A LINE TO THE AIRBASE AND A MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS LINE TO KWANGJU FOR EMERGENCY USE.) SIX REMAIN TO BE REACHED, BUT, OF COURSE, THERE MAY BE OTHER U.S. CITIZENS THERE NOT PRESENT-

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LY KNOWN TO EMBASSY. SOME OF THOSE CONTACTED DECIDED THEY WOULD TRY TO REACH THE MILITARY BASE, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD HAVE TO PASS THROUGH BARRIERS MANNED BY RADICALS AND ROK MILITARY ASTRIDE ALL ROUTES LEADING OUT OF THE CITY. TWELVE MORMON MISSIONARIES AND FIVE CANADIAN CITIZENS ARE AT THE AIRBASE AT THIS TIME. OTHERS HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES FOR SAFETY OR OTHER REASONS. FOUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS COULD NOT BE REACHED. (WE HAVE TALKED WITH PCV PAUL COURTWRIGHT.) WE ARE MAKING ANOTHER

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ATTEMPT TO CONTACT ALL THOSE WE HAVE NOT SPOKEN WITH AND WILL REPORT AS AMERICANS REACH THE BASE.

11. WE ARE RECEIVING INCREASING EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM THE NON-OFFICIAL/NON-BUSINESS AMERICAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS OVER THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE U.S. ROLE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION. VERY CONCERNED THEMSELVES, THEY CONSTANTLY REFER TO THEIR KOREAN FRIENDS WHO SEE THE U.S. IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE ROK MILITARY. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THE SITUATION AND OUR POSITION TO THEM IN GREAT DETAIL IN THE HOPE THEY WILL ADEQUATELY REPRESENT IT TO THEIR KOREAN CIRCLE. WE DOUBT THIS WILL HAPPEN, AND WE ARE SURE WE WILL BE BLAMED IF KWANGJU'S RECAPTURE INVOLVES HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE. SINCE THESE AMERICANS REPRESENT A WIDE CIRCLE OF GROUPS IN THE U.S., THE DEPARTMENT WILL SOON BEGIN RECEIVING THE SAME VIEWS, IF IN FACT THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEGUN.

12. IN A LATE DEVELOPMENT, THE FIRST SPECIAL FORCES BRIGADE BEGAN A SHOW OF FORCE DRIVING THROUGH STREETS OF SEOUL BETWEEN 1300 AND 1700 ON MAY 26 WITH A FORCE OF 971 TROOPS IN 67 VEHICLES. FIFTH SPECIAL FORCES BRIGADE WILL FOLLOW WITH 940 PERSONNEL IN 73 VEHICLES FROM 1730 TO 1830 HOURS. THIS SHOW OF FORCE MAY BE RELATED TO REPORTS OF

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A UNIVERSITY RALLY AT 1800. GLEYSTEN

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