

[REDACTED] OADR

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E1746
1250

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEUL 007402

EXCISE

ADP246

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-14 PC-01 OCS-06
SYE-00 DCT-02 /083 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9003008 IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date 9/13/93

SY-05	MR Cases Only:
<input type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	EO Citations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<i>Twainson</i> TS authority in
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	<input type="checkbox"/> S or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C OADR
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as
FOIA Exemptions <u>B1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OADR
PA Exemptions	

O 100943Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6939
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
SA CINCUNC KS

[REDACTED] ACTION 01 OF 10 SEUL 07402

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 6/10/90 (MONJO, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: SPUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: INSIDER'S ACCOUNT OF KWANGJU RIOT

1. [REDACTED]
2. THERE FOLLOWS AN ACCOUNT OF THE KWANGJU RIOTS COMPILED BY [REDACTED] OF LONG ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE AREA. HE WAS IN KWANGJU THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF TROUBLE AND, [REDACTED] THIS IS THE MOST BALANCED RECORD AND ANALYSIS OF INCIDENT WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR. WE HAVE SUBSTITUTED [REDACTED] STILL. END-USERS SHOULD HANDLE REPORT WITH CARE [REDACTED]

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BEGIN QUOTE:

ABBREVIATED RETROSPECT OF THE "MAY EIGHTEENTH INCIDENT" AT KWANGJU, KOREA.

BEFORE MAY 18TH:

IN THE SPRING OF 1980 IN KWANGJU THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 007402

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CAMPUS UNREST WHICH WAS FOCUSED ON ISSUES WITHIN THE VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL CAMPUSES. WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL LINK OR ANY RELATIONSHIP, THIS ANTAGONIST STANCE WITHIN THE INSTITUTIONS WAS FOLLOWED BY A REVIVAL OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY.

ON THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, STUDENTS HELD A LARGE ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLY WITH SONGS, SLOGANS, MARCHING, AND IN THE EVENING A TORCHLIGHT PARADE, ALL DIRECTED AGAINST THE YUSIN CONSTITUTION AND THE CONTINUED IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW IN KOREA. THE ROUTINE AIR-RAID DRILL HELD ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH WAS CANCELLED THIS DAY. RIOT POLICE WERE OUT IN FORCE IN KWANGJU BUT TOOK NO ACTION OF ANY SORT, SIMPLY WATCHING PASSIVELY FROM THEIR POSITIONS.

ON FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, CERTAIN STREETS IN KWANGJU WERE CORDONED OFF, AND RIOT POLICE WERE IN EVIDENCE. IN THE EVENING THERE WAS A TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND SHOUTS AND SONGS AGAINST MARTIAL LAW AND AGAINST CHUN TU HWAN BY NAME. (ONE BILINGUAL HEARER IS CONVINCED THAT THE WORDS HE HEARD TO THE CHRISTIAN PEP-SONG "I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER", ETC., WERE OTHER WORDS CHOSEN FOR THE PROTEST.) NO POLICE ACTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. THE RALLY WAS OVER BY ABOUT 9:00 O'CLOCK.

[REDACTED]

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RELATED OR NOT, MISSIONARIES WISHING TO GO TO TAEJON FOUND BUS TICKETS COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE AND WERE TOLD THAT IT WAS ON ACCOUNT OF SOLDIERS GOING TO TAEJON. GOING BY TRAIN ON SATURDAY, THEY FOUND LARGE NUMBERS OF ENLISTED MEN ON THE TRAIN, WHOSE BEHAVIOR GREW PROGRESSIVELY UNRULY TO THE PHYSICAL DANGER OF CIVILIAN PASSENGERS AND THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD AMONG THE TROOPS. NO OFFICERS WERE IN EVIDENCE.

SATURDAY IN KWANGJU WAS QUIET. ON SATURDAY, HOWEVER, THE EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW AND THE CLOSING OF COLLEGES OF MANY CATEGORIES WAS ANNOUNCED, TAKING EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT. ON SUNDAY, MAY 18TH:

THE KWANGJU MISSIONARIES DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHEN THINGS BECAME VIOLENT ON SUNDAY, MAY 18. IN THE MORNING THINGS APPEARED QUIET, BUT BEGINNING AT ABOUT NOON--RETURNING FROM ONE CHURCH OR ANOTHER--SOME OF THE MISSIONARIES RAN INTO INDICATIONS OF PREVIOUS TROUBLE. ONE MOTHER AND CHILDREN, WITH GUEST AMERICANS, SAW NO SIGN OF TROUBLE BUT WERE IN THE WAY OF A HEAVY DISCHARGE OF TEAR GAS, WHICH WOULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN USED FOR A WHIM. HER HUSBAND, IN ANOTHER LOCATION, FOUND STREETS CLOSED WHICH HAD BEEN OPEN EARLIER, AND ALSO DETECTED SIGNS OF TEAR GAS USED EARLIER. OTHER MISSIONARIES SAW NOTHING.

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 007402

AT SOME TIME ON SUNDAY TROOPS OF AN AIRBORNE UNIT APPEARED IN THE CITY. SOME SAY AT 9:00 A.M., OTHERS AT NOON.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON THERE BEGAN TO BE UNPROVOKED ASSAULTS BY AIRBORNE UNIT PERSONNEL UPON YOUNG MEN. INCIDENTS WERE PERSONALLY WITNESSED BY

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WHATEVER PRIOR PROVOCATION THERE MAY HAVE BEEN, THESE PEOPLE WITNESSED ATTACKS OF GREATER OR LESSER SEVERITY ON

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 007402

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAR-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-14 PC-01 OCS-06 /076 W
-----014982 101141Z /13

O 100943Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMUSKORFA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
SA CINCUNC KS

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 10 SEUL 07402

A NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN SIMPLY WALKING DOWN THE STREETS.
(DETAILS CAN BE PROVIDED IF REQUIRED.)

AT NO TIME DURING THE ENTIRE MAY 18TH INCIDENT, EITHER ON
THAT DAY OR THE DAYS FOLLOWING, DID ANY MISSIONARY SEE OR
HEAR EVEN AT SECOND OR THIRD HAND ANY INDICATION OF BRU-
TALITY BY THE CIVILIAN RIOT POLICE. THE RIOT POLICE WERE
SEEN TO STAND AT THEIR POSTS WITHOUT INTERFERING WHILE
AIRBORNE UNIT TROOPS ATTACKED PEOPLE. THERE WAS LATER A
RUMOR THAT ONE KOREAN POLICEMAN HAD BEEN KILLED WHILE TRY-
ING TO INTERFERE WITH AN AIRBORNE UNIT TROOPER'S ATTACK
UPON A PERSON, BUT NO PROOF. [SAW A
CONFLICT BETWEEN A TRAFFIC OFFICER AND AN AIRBORNE UNIT
SOLDIER AT AN INTERSECTION, WHERE THE SOLDIER WANTED A
YOUNG WOMAN (APPARENTLY) OUT OF A TAXICAB, AND THE OFFICER
WANTED HIM TO LET THE CAB GO ON. (THE MISSIONARY NEVER
SAW THE OUTCOME, AS HE HAD TO KEEP GOING HIMSELF. IT
COULD HAVE BEEN SCARE TACTICS AND NOT AN ASSAULT. AT THIS
TIME THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ANY MOLESTATION OF WOMEN
STUDENTS; ONLY THIS INCIDENT SEEN BY [

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REPORTS ON MONDAY TOLD OF INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD BRUTALITY
ON SUNDAY EVENING. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY THE
[SAW "NORMAL BRUTALITY" WITH NIGHTSTICKS
AND KICKING OF FALLEN MEN (LOOKING FROM THE WINDOWS OF THE
KWANGJU TOURIST HOTEL).

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A CURFEW WAS ANNOUNCED FOR 8:00 AT AFTER 6:30, BUT THEN
CHANGED TO 9:00.

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IN ALL OF THIS, THE WRITER WENT TO THE COUNTRY IN THE MORN-
ING, BACK IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON, AND TO CHURCH IN THE CITY
IN THE EVENING--EARLY BECAUSE OF THE ANNOUNCED CURFEW--AND
NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD ANYTHING AMISS. IT IS A MATTER OF
ROUTES AND LOCATIONS.

ON MONDAY, MAY 19TH:

MOST OF THE ACCOUNTS OF BRUTALITY COME FROM MONDAY, AL-
THOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SUNDAY HAD ITS SHARE.

THE WRITER'S FAMILY SEEMS SINGULARLY EXEMPT FROM TROUBLE-
SOME MATTERS, EVEN AT SECOND HAND.

(FULLER NOTES, NOT HERE COPIED, GIVE
DETAILS AND SOURCES.)

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REPORTS OF SEVERE VIOLENCE BEGAN COMING IN ON MONDAY MORN-
ING. PERHAPS BY COINCIDENCE, THE FIRST REPORTED RIOT-TYPE
ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED ON MONDAY AFTERNOON, WHEN MR. DAVID
MILLER OF THE USIS TELEPHONED AND SAID THERE HAVE BEEN AN
ATTEMPT (ATTEMPTS?) TO SET FIRE TO GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

SMALL-SCALE RESISTANCE, IF IT CAN BE CALLED THAT, WAS SEEN

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FROM THE FIRST. PERSONAL
VIEWING OF AN ATTACK WAS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON WHEN THREE
SOLDIERS JOINED IN BEATING A PASSERBY, AND PEOPLE THREW
STONES AT THEM, WITH THE RESULT THAT TWO RAN AFTER THE
STONE-THROWERS (WITHOUT SUCCESS) AND THE THIRD CONTINUED
BEATING THE YOUNG MAN. THERE WAS ALSO STONE-THROWING ON
MONDAY.

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MONDAY WAS THE FIRST DAY WHEN WE HEARD REPORTS OF AIRBORNE
UNIT SOLDIERS ENTERING HOUSES IN SEARCH OF YOUNG MEN. CITY
BUSES WERE STOPPED AND YOUNG MEN TAKEN OFF AND BEATEN;
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EATING PLACES WERE GIVEN THE SAME
TREATMENT. IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER PRIVATE HOMES WERE
ENTERED OR NOT. (KWANGJU CITIZENS SAY THEY WERE, BUT WE
HAVE NOT HEARD OF SPECIFIC CASES.)

A KOREAN PASTOR, WHO CAN BE NAMED IF NECESSARY, HEARD THE
AIRBORNE UNIT PERSONNEL SPEAKING WITH A DISTINCTIVELY
KYONGSANG ACCENT, AND REPORTS HEARING THEM SAY THEY WERE
GOING TO SLAY THE NO-GODD CHOLLA-DO RASCALS. ANOTHER WIT-
NESS SAW OTHER AIRBORNE UNIT TROOPS BEHAVING WITH A BREAK-
DOWN OF DISCIPLINE SIMILAR TO WHAT TOOK PLACE WITH OTHER
TROOPS ON THE TRAIN TO TAEJON ON SATURDAY, AND NOTICED
THAT THE MEN PRESUMABLY GUARDING THE CHOSUN UNIVERSITY
LOOKED DISHEVELED, WERE OBVIOUSLY DRUNK, AND WERE SHOUTING
FOR FOOD. (THERE IS A RUMOR CURRENT THAT THE MEN WERE IN-

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