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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9003668 IS, FPC/CDR TRB Date 9/13/93

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
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MR Cases Only: _____
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 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEDUL 008256

ADP784

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 FB0E-00 A-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
INRE-00 SS-15 SS0-00 PA-01 DDDE-00 SY-05 SYE-00
NSCE-00 /046 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEDUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7344
INFO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY

SEUL 08256

SECSTATE FOR EA/K, USICA FOR EA

E.O. 12065: GDS 06/27/86 (LEVINE, M) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, SOPN, KS
SUBJECT: KWANGJU LIBRARY INCIDENT

REF: SEUL 08080

1. [REDACTED]
2. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S PROTEST TO FOREIGN MINISTER JUNE 23 REGARDING THE ENTRY THAT DAY OF FIVE ARMED ROK SOLDIERS INTO THE JICA KWANGJU LIBRARY (REFTEL), THE FOLLOWING OCCURRED:
3. ON JUNE 25, AN ARMY MAJOR IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE KWANGJU MARTIAL LAW COMMAND TELEPHONED THE LIBRARY TO "CONFIRM" THE INCIDENT. ASKED BY THE LIBRARIAN IF HE WAS CALLING ONLY TO CONFIRM OR TO EXPRESS REGRET, THE MAJOR REPLIED, "BOTH." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE SOLDIERS' BEHAVIOR WAS IMPROPER, AND ADDED THAT THE MLC HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE VISIT. HE SAID THE SOLDIERS WERE FROM THE 20TH DIVISION ROKA AND THAT THEY WERE PROBABLY SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THEM-

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SELVES IN ARTICLES OF TIME AND NEWSWEEK.

4. ON JUNE 26, AN ARMY COLONEL FROM THE SAME OFFICE VISITED THE LIBRARY TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE INCIDENT "AND, IF APPROPRIATE, TO APOLOGIZE." APPARENTLY SATISFIED BY THE ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT GIVEN TO HIM, HE THEN APOLOGIZED FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SOLDIERS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCERNS OF THE LIBRARY STAFF AND CONCEDED THAT THE SOLDIERS' CONDUCT WAS UNACCEPTABLE. HE OFFERED THE

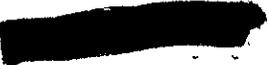
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EXPLANATION THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE A REPORT ON THE KWANGJU INCIDENTS AND, BEING GIVEN NO INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED, WENT TO THE ICA LIBRARY ON THEIR OWN FOR INFORMATION. THE COLONEL SAID THE SOLDIERS WERE NOT UNDER HIS JURISDICTION AND THAT THE 20TH DIVISION WOULD TAKE WHATEVER CORRECTIVE ACTION WAS REQUIRED. THE COLONEL'S MANNER THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WAS POLITE AND SYMPATHETIC. HE WAS GIVEN A TOUR OF THE LIBRARY FACILITIES AND LEFT AFTER FORTY MINUTES.

5. COMMENT: APART FROM THE RAPID RESPONSE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE SOLDIERS' BEHAVIOR, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT SUCCEEDED IN THIS INSTANCE IN EFFECTING PROMPT ACTION ON THE PART OF THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES. LEVINE



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