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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSTATE 168867

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ADP594 [REDACTED]

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ORIGIN H-02

INFO DCT-00 EA-10 ADS-00 HA-05 IO-14 AID-07 CIAE-00
 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 SY-05 SYE-00
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DRAFTED BY H:J CUNNINGHAM:AG
 APPROVED BY EA:M H ARMACOST
 EA/K:R G RICH

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P 270215Z JUN 80
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO AMEMBASSY-SEOUL PRIORITY
 INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

[REDACTED] STATE 168867

KUALA LUMPUR - SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR HOLBROOKE

E.O. 12065 - N/A

TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON KOREA

1. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EA MIKE ARMACOST
 YESTERDAY APPEARED BEFORE LESTER WOLFF'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO
 DISCUSS RECENT EVENTS IN KOREA. THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED
 PARTICULAR INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN IN CONTROL AND
 COMMAND STRUCTURE OF THE JOINT COMMAND; THE NATURE OF
 EVENTS IN KWANGJU; THE IMPACT OF THE MILITARY TAKEOVER ON
 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN SOUTH KOREA; THE NORTH
 KOREAN REACTION; AND THE WHEREABOUTS OF A NUMBER OF NOTABLE
 KOREAN POLITICIANS, PARTICULARLY KIM DAE-JUNG.

[REDACTED]

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2. IN RESPONSE, ARMACOST STATED THAT THE AIRBORNE SPECIAL
 FORCES TROOPS WHICH WERE INITIALLY DISPATCHED TO KWANGJU
 WERE NOT A PART OF THE JOINT COMMAND AND THE COMMAND
 STRUCTURE HAD NOT BEEN VIOLATED. HE CHARACTERIZED THE
 INCIDENT IN KWANGJU AS A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WHICH WAS
 TURNED INTO A POPULAR INSURRECTION AS A RESULT OF THE
 ACTIONS OF THE AIRBORNE TROOPS WHICH WERE UNTRAINED TO DEAL
 WITH CIVIL DISTURBANCES. HE REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'
 POSITION THAT WE BELIEVE STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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IS BEST SERVED BY A BROADLY BASED GOVERNMENT ACCEPTABLE TO

THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO BE THE ARBITER OF THE FORM OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT. HE NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA HAS BEEN RESTRAINED ONLY IN A RELATIVE SENSE. WHILE THEY HAVE NOT STARTED A WAR THEY HAVE STEPPED UP PROPAGANDA ATTACKS, LAUNCHED AN EFFORT INTERNATIONALLY TO CONDEMN SOUTH KOREA, POSTPONED NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE MEETINGS, AND CONTINUED ARMED INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS.

3. ARMACOST SAID WE DO NOT HAVE VERIFICATION OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF KIM DAE-JUNG AND OTHER ARRESTEES. WE HAVE FORCEFULLY CONVEYED OUR CONCERN FOR THEIR ARREST, THEIR HUMANE TREATMENT AND FOR ACCESS BY THEIR FAMILIES AND LAWYERS. REGARDING THE ANNOUNCED CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THESE EVENTS WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE BUT WAS UNWILLING AT THIS TIME TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON WHETHER THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD TAKE PLACE WOULD BE SUCH AS TO ACHIEVE THE DEGREE OF POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION DESIRED BY THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

4. PARTICULARLY INTERESTING WERE ATTEMPTS BY CHAIRMAN

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WOLFF AND OTHER MEMBERS, NOTABLY MR. GOODLING, TO ELICIT A STATEMENT FROM ARMACOST ON THE INADVISABILITY OF CONG. SOLARZ' TRAVELLING TO NORTH KOREA AT THIS TIME. ARMACOST REITERATED THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT WE HAVE NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED THE TRIP.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING, COMMITTEE MEMBERS ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED A SHORT BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION ON THE THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER.

6. BY SEPTEL WE HAVE TRANSMITTED TEXT OF CHAIRMAN WOLFF'S OPENING REMARKS AND TEXT OF DAS ARMACOST'S OPENING STATEMENT TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS REQUESTED BY THE EMBASSY AS SOON AS TRANSCRIPT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CONGRESS. CHRISTOPHER

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