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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSTATE 168971

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S STATEMENT BEFORE HOUSE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN
LESTER L. WOLFF, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND
PACIFIC AFFAIRS, GIVEN ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 ON THE SUBJECT
OF KOREA.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH IN SOUTH KOREA, HAVE CAUSED
SERIOUS CONCERN FOR US, OF COURSE, BUT PARTICULARLY FOR
THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH KOREA. JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, DURING A
VISIT BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, WE HEARD CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM EX-
PRESSED ON ALL SIDES THAT THE STUDENTS AND THE MILITARY
WOULD COOPERATE, THAT DEMOCRACY WOULD TAKE HOLD, AND THAT
THE DOMESTIC UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED ALL
ASPECTS OF KOREAN LIFE COULD BE ADDRESSED BY A PEOPLE
CONFIDENT OF THEIR FUTURE.

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TODAY, THESE HOPES -- DREAMS -- WOULD APPEAR TO LIE IN
TATTERS AND MANY OF THE PROMINENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
LEADERS WITH WHOM WE MET LAST JANUARY ARE IN JAIL, OR HAVE
DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED TO THIS ON-GOING
CRISIS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, AND AN EXAMINATION OF U.S.-
SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS IN THE WAKE OF EVENTS ON EITHER SIDE
OF THE PACIFIC IS THE TOPIC OF OUR HEARING TODAY.

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OUR WITNESS, THE HONORABLE MICHAEL ARMACOST, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIA, IS PARTICULARLY WELL-SUITED TO HELP US IN TODAY'S TASK, AS HE SPENT NEARLY THREE YEARS AS A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, SPECIALIZING IN DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC QUESTIONS FOR NORTH ASIA.

FROM THE OUTSET, WE IN THE CONGRESS, AS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, I AM SURE, HAVE BEEN FACED WITH POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN REACTING TO KOREAN DOMESTIC EVENTS AND THE STRATEGIC NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CONTINUED U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE EXTERNAL SECURITY OF SOUTH KOREA REMAIN CONSTANT, AND DEVOID OF DOUBT.

I THINK THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN THIS VITAL WEEK.

HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MAJOR THEMES I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ARTICULATE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, BE IT SOUTH KOREA, OR IN THE PHILIPPINES, OR IN TAIWAN, IS THAT EXTERNAL SECURITY IS DIRECTLY AND INHERENTLY RELATED TO INTERNAL STABILITY. NO AMOUNT OF TANKS OR MISSILES -- AND NO U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA -- CAN SHIELD A GOVERNMENT FROM ITS OWN UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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PEOPLE.

THIS IS WHY IN MY INITIAL FLOOR REMARKS ON THE KOREAN SITUATION, ON MAY 20, I STRESSED THE POINT THAT THE U.S. POSITION MUST CONTINUE TO BE THAT THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE -- AND THE UNITED STATES -- WILL BE SERVED BY A RETURN TO PROGRESS TOWARD RESTORING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THIS STATEMENT, AND THE FOLLOW-UP STATEMENT I MADE ON MAY 22, ARE AVAILABLE TODAY FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

AMONG THE QUESTIONS WHICH WE WILL ADDRESS TODAY, IN PUBLIC SESSION, WILL BE SOME OF THE SPECIFIC RESPONSES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA, AND WHAT, IF ANY, HAS BEEN THE SOUTH KOREAN REACTION.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY TAKEN THE EXTRAORDINARY STEP OF DISTRIBUTING SEVERAL THOUSAND COPIES OF SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY MUSKIE AND OTHERS DIRECTLY TO U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND KOREAN CITIZENS, BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INFORMATION IN SOUTH KOREA ON THE U.S. POSITION.

SECOND, WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON WHY THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE, IF ANY, REACTION FROM NORTH KOREA OVER A PERIOD EXTENDING WELL BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT PARK IN OCTOBER. DO WE HAVE HERE ONE OF THE

BENEFITS OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS?

THIRD, WE WILL WANT TO EXAMINE CLOSELY SOME OF THE SPECIFIC MILITARY QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF THE ALLIED SUPREME COMMANDER, GENERAL WICKHAM, BOTH BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE RIOTS IN SEOUL AND KWANGJU. OBVIOUSLY, THE EVENTS HAVE CALLED INTO QUESTION THE INTEGRITY OF THE JOINT COMMAND STRUCTURE, AND WE WILL WANT TO SATISFY OURSELVES THAT THIS STRUCTURE IS STILL INTACT.

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FINALLY, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, FOR THE IMMEDIATE SHORT-RUN, WE WILL BE SEEKING TO EMPHASIZE OUR INDIVIDUAL CONCERN OVER THE WELL-BEING OF KIM DAE-JUNG AND KIM JONG-PIL, AND MAY OF THE PROMINENT MEN AND WOMEN WITH WHOM WE MET IN JANUARY WHO ARE NOW SOMEWHERE IN CUSTODY.

AS A PARENTHETICAL COMMENT, I WOULD NOTE THAT FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS I HAVE SEEN IT SAID THAT OUR EMBASSY LACKS BROADLY-BASED CONTACTS AT ALL LEVELS OF KOREAN SOCIETY. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS TRUE, I FIND IT DISTURBING THAT MANY OF OUR QUESTIONS OVER THE MONTHS HAVE RECEIVED THE ANSWER "WE DON'T HAVE THOSE SOURCES OF INFORMATION." IF EVER THERE SHOULD BE A NATION WHERE THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS OF ANOTHER SOCIETY -- PUBLIC

AND PRIVATE -- KNOW EACH OTHER WELL IT SHOULD BE SOUTH KOREA. I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT SPYING ON ONE-ANOTHER. I AM TALKING ABOUT MUTUAL INTERACTION AND MUTUAL TRUST BASED ON 30-YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP AND INTERDEPENDENCE.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SITUATION CAN BE RE-BUILT, AND THAT THE TRADITIONAL ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF THE KOREAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR EACH OTHER WILL WIN OUT OVER THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND MISTRUST.

A RETURN TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN SOUTH KOREA WOULD HASTEN THIS DAY, A DAY, I FEEL, WE ALL AGREE WILL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF STABILITY IN ASIA. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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