

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 009238

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	in PART	
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info		_____ TS authority
FOIA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OAC
PA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OAC

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 PA-01
PC-01 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7834

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SEOUL 09238

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON FOR HUSTON

E.O. 12065-3 DS 07/19/86 (MONJO, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: AFP INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL KAE CHUL LEE (MR: YI KAE-CH'OL) RAISED WITH POLCOUNS A 7/15 AFP STORY OUT OF STOCKHOLM IN WHICH TWO ALLEGED FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA DESCRIBED THE RECENT UPRISING IN KWANGJU IN HIGHLY EXAGGERATED TERMS, CLAIMING INTER ALIA 2,000 DEATHS. LEE SAID THE ROKG IS VERY DISTURBED BY THIS REPORT, AND ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY CONFIRM WHETHER THE INDIVIDUALS IN QUESTION ACTUALLY HAD WORKED AS PCV'S IN KOREA. LEE ASKED FURTHER THAT THE USG CONSIDER CONTACTING AFP TO SET THE KWANGJU RECORD STRAIGHT.

3. WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM PEACE CORPS - KOREA THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH VERY SIMILAR NAMES TO THOSE USED IN THE AFP ARTICLE DID IN FACT WORK IN KOREA AS VOLUNTEERS, DEPARTING ON JUNE 13, 1980. POLCOUNS

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THEREFORE TELEPHONED LEE TO INFORM HIM THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN, IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA. BUT THAT AS U.S. CITIZENS THEY WERE FREE TO SAY WHAT THEY WISHED AFTER THEIR TERMINATION. WE DECLINED ANY ATTEMPT TO SET THE STORY STRAIGHT WITH THE PRESS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT TO DO SO WOULD ONLY ATTRACT FURTHER UNWANTED ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE. MONJO

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