

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 009553

ADP949

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 MMD-01 /024 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7976
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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STATE FGR EA/K; USICA FOR EA

E.O. 12065; GDS 7/25/86 (MONROE, JOHN C.) OR-M
TAGS: FINT, KS
SUBJECT POLICE VISITS TO ICA CENTERS

REF: A. SEOUL 9378-C, B. SEOUL 9527-C

1. ██████ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. POLICE PLAINCLOTHESMEN APPEARED AT ICA LIBRARIES IN
SEOUL, PUSAN, AND TAEGU THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 25 IN WHAT
APPEARED TO BE A COORDINATED MOVE TO INHIBIT KOREANS
ENTERING THE PREMISES. IN SEOUL, TWO MEN APPEARED, ASKED
TO VISIT THE LIBRARY, AND LEFT AFTER LEARNING LIBRARY WAS
CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS OF RENOVATION. IN TAEGU, POLICEMAN
SAID HE WANTED TO SIT IN THE LIBRARY, BUT LEFT AFTER A
MEETING WITH THE ACTING BPAO. IN PUSAN, POLICEMAN STOOD
JUST INSIDE LIBRARY ENTRANCE, AND EXPLAINED TO ICA STAFF
THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR WEAPONS THAT MIGHT HAVE COME FROM
KWANGJU. WHEN ASKED TO LEAVE, HE SUMMONED SUPERVISOR FROM
NEARBY POLICE STATION WHO SAID HE HAD ORDERS TO "PROTECT"
ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS IN PUSAN BECAUSE OF FEARS THAT ARMS
FROM KWANGJU MIGHT BE USED TO SEIZE FOREIGNERS AS HOSTAGES.

3. EMBASSY HAS INSTRUCTED BPAO'S, IN SUCH INSTANCES, TO
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POLITELY ASK POLICE TO LEAVE ICA PREMISES AND, IF THIS
FAILS, TO MAKE SAME REQUEST TO LOCAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

4. EMBASSY RAISED THESE LATEST INCIDENTS JULY 25 WITH
OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION OF NATIONAL POLICE
(WHO PARADOXICALLY HAD CALLED TO FORMALLY APOLOGIZE FOR
JULY 22 KWANGJU INCIDENT). THE OFFICIAL PROMISED TO LOOK
INTO LATEST INCIDENTS. EMBASSY WILL PROTEST AT HIGHER
LEVEL IF NECESSARY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9003668		IS, FPC, CDR	1112	JAG-1111	1170
<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	_____ TS authority to.			
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as	<input type="checkbox"/> S or	<input type="checkbox"/> C OADR	
FOIA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to	<input type="checkbox"/> S or	<input type="checkbox"/> C OADR	
PA Exemptions _____					

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5. COMMENT. COMBINED WITH RECENT INCIDENTS AT ICA KWANGJU CENTER, THESE OSTENTATIOUS POLICE VISITS TO ICA LIBRARIES APPEAR TO BE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO HARRASS ICA LIBRARIES AND DISCOURAGE ATTENDANCE BY KOREAN PUBLIC. THE AVAILABILITY OF UNCENSORED AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS AT THESE LIBRARIES, AS WELL AS SEVERAL RECENT ICA MAILINGS OF THE TEXTS OF OFFICIAL USG STATEMENTS ON KOREA (CENSORED BY THE LOCAL PRESS) ARE PROBABLY THE MAJOR IRRITANTS IN ROKG EYES. IN THE CASE OF TODAY'S INCIDENTS, WE SUSPECT WORD HAD NOT FILTERED DOWN TO WORKING-LEVEL FOLLOWING EMBASSY PROTESTS OF JULY 24. WE ALSO SUSPECT LINES OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY ARE SO CONFUSED AT THIS TIME THAT THE RIGHT HAND FREQUENTLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE LEFT IS DOING. WE WILL WATCH SITUATION CLOSELY, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT OUR PROTESTS ARE NOT IGNORED.
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