

E 1963

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

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 010098

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
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 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions _____
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MR Cases Only: _____
EO Citations _____
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 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
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ADP835

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 PM-07 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 L-03 HA-05 /071 W
-----042006 060819Z /10

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P 060638Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8238
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCLINC KS
CHJUSMAG SECUL KS
COMUSKORFA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

SEOUL 10098

E.O. 12065: GDS 08/06/86 (MONJO, JOHN C.) DR/M
TAGS: FINT PGOV KS
SUBJECT: A NEW CONSTITUTION EMERGES--"SON OF YUSHIN"

REF: (A) SEDUL 9910, (B) SEDUL 9635

- ENTIRE TEXT)
- A PARTIAL OUTLINE OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION HAS EMERGED IN A SERIES OF APPARENTLY AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT-PLANTED NEWS ITEMS OVER THE PAST WEEK. COVERAGE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY DETAILED IN THE TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS, AND SEVERAL OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT THIS WAS TO SEE HOW NON-KOREANS REACTED TO SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN FLOATED. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOME OF OUR SOURCES ALSO SUSPECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE LISTENING CLOSELY TO PRIVATE KOREAN REACTION, AND PRESUMABLY WOULD BE WILLING TO TINKER WITH THE DRAFT IF THE REACTION WERE TOO NEGATIVE.

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- THE PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REVEALED SO FAR:
 - A STRONG PRESIDENT INDIRECTLY ELECTED.
 - SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT EITHER BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OR, MORE LIKELY, BY A BODY OF 15 TO 20 THOUSAND ELECTORS THAT WOULD BE CHOSEN AT THE VILLAGE AND WARD LEVEL.

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- -- A SINGLE SIX-YEAR TERM FOR THE PRESIDENT, OR POSSIBLY TWO FOUR-YEAR TERMS.
- -- A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT WOULD BE MUCH LARGER THAN THE PRESENT 231-MEMBER LEGISLATURE.
- FIGURES OF UP TO 1,000 HAVE BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES.
- -- POSSIBLE PROHIBITION OF "PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS" RUNNING FOR THE LEGISLATURE. (THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION DELIBERATION COMMITTEE (CRDC) WAS REPORTED IN AN AUGUST 4 MEETING TO HAVE CONSIDERED THE "DISSOLUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES." IF THIS PLAN WERE ADOPTED, THE ASSEMBLYMEN WOULD RECEIVE NO PAY; ONLY PER DIEM AND TRANSPORTATION TO SEOUL. SOME SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE CRDC SEEMS TO BE BACKING OFF THIS IDEA, HOWEVER.)

4. THE CRDC IS MEETING ABOUT TWICE WEEKLY, AND A SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH IS WORKING OUT A PLAN FOR THE "POWER STRUCTURE" OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS MEETING ALMOST DAILY.

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THE ENTIRE CRDC WILL BEGIN MEETINGS THIS WEEKEND TO DISCUSS THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. COMMENT: IF THE NEW CONSTITUTION TAKES SHAPE ALONG THE LINES THAT ARE BEING TOUTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PR CAMPAIGN, IT WILL BEAR MORE THAN A SURFACE RESEMBLANCE TO THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. EXCEPT FOR THE ABSENCE OF APPOINTED LAWMAKERS AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE SIZE OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WE SEE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND THE ONE MOST OBSERVERS FEEL WILL EMERGE FROM THE CRDC. (WE HAVE SEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING THE EXTENSIVE EMERGENCY POWERS AVAILABLE TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE YUSHIN SYSTEM.) IF ANYTHING, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MAY BE WEAKER UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION THAN THE OLD. PROF. HAN SEUNG-JO (M-R: HAN SUNG-CHO) OF KOREA UNIVERSITY, A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION IN GENERAL CHUN DOO-HWAN'S (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) "SHADOW CABINET," (REF A), TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 2 THAT INDIRECT ELECTIONS ARE NEEDED, ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KWANGJU DISTURBANCES, TO "COOL REGIONAL HATRED." WE ARE NOT SURE HOW WIDELY PROF. HAN'S FEELING IS SHARED, BUT THERE NOW SEEMS TO BE LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE OPTIONS PRESENTED TO THE VOTER WILL INCLUDE A SYSTEM FOR DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT.

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