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(E1911)

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E.O. 12065: RDS-1, 8/7/2000 (ARMACOST, MICHAEL H.)

AGS: ENRG, SHUM, PINS, PINT, MILI, PDIP, SCUL, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. ARMACOST, ACTING

FROM: EA/K - WILLIAM T. BREER, ACTING

1. KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL (S, RDS-1, 8/7/2000)

THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT IT APPEARS THAT KIM'S TRIAL WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 12. THE QUESTION OF ATTENDANCE BY OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED. IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS FROM THE U.S., JAPAN, AND

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EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS WILL BE GIVEN ACCESS, BUT THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR ATTENDANCE HAVE NOT YET BEEN SPECIFIED. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE HAS RECEIVED A VISA AND INTENDS TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE TRIAL AFTER HE ARRIVES IN SEOUL. WHILE THERE IS ONE REPORT THAT KIM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING LEGAL COUNSEL, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION TO INDICATE THAT VISITS EITHER BY COUNSEL OR FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE YET BEEN PERMITTED. (BREER)

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2. "SON OF YUSHIN" STIRS

THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS IN SEOUL THIS PAST WEEK HAVE CARRIED A PARTICULARLY DETAILED SERIES OF PLANTED ARTICLES OUTLINING THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION BEING CONCOCTED IN CAMERA BY A GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. THESE PROVISIONS WILL IGNORE ALL THREE OF THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE EARLIER CONSENSUS IN KOREA WITH RESPECT TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THERE IS NO HINT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S "EMERGENCY" POWERS WILL BE WEAKENED; THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH IT MAY INDEED LOSE ITS APPOINTED ELEMENT, WILL, IF ANYTHING BE WEAKER; AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED INDIRECTLY, RATHER THAN DIRECTLY. SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL WATCH CLOSELY FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC REACTION TO THIS SERIES OF "TRIAL BALLOONS." (MC NEAL)

3. SHADOW CABINET

EMBASSY SEOUL HAS LEARNED OF THE EXISTENCE OF A BODY OF ADVISORS TO GENERAL CHUN (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, PROMOTED HIMSELF TO FOUR-STAR RANK ON WEDNESDAY) THAT FUNCTIONS AS A "SHADOW CABINET" FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. IT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS, WITH SIX ADVISORS ON SOCIAL

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AFFAIRS, THREE ON ECONOMIC, AND FIVE ON POLITICAL. INCLUDED IN THE LAST GROUP IS KIM CHONG-HWI, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH YOU ON TUESDAY. (MC NEAL)

4. POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL LETTER (C, RDS-1, 8/7/2000)

ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS LEARNED THAT CONGRESSMAN DON EDWARDS OF CALIFORNIA HAS DRAFTED A PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT CHOI, MENTIONING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE TRIAL OF KIM DAE JUNG. REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS IS REPORTEDLY CIRCULATING THE LETTER TO OBTAIN AS MANY SIGNATURES AS POSSIBLE. LESTER WOLFF SENT A LETTER TO CHOI LAST WEEK THAT URGED MODERATION. (MC NEAL)

5. COOPERATIVE ENERGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - FINAL CHAPTER

ON AUGUST 1, CONGRESS APPROVED THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE US-ROK COOPERATIVE ENERGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. THE U.S. DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM, BOB KELLY, HAS INFORMED THE KOREANS OF THIS GOOD NEWS BY PHONE AND EXPECTS TO TRAVEL TO SEOUL THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER TO BEGIN WORK ON THE FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT.

IN AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE NOTE, KIM YOON HYUNG, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PLANNING FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY

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AND RESOURCES LOST HIS JOB IN THE RECENT "PURIFICATION" OF THE BUREAUCRACY. DR. KIM, WHO HEADED THE KOREAN ENERGY TEAM'S RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S., WAS AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT TECHNOCRAT AND A DRIVING FORCE ON THE KOREAN SIDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE ENERGY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. HIS CRIME WAS APPARENTLY A CASUAL REMARK WHICH WAS OVERHEARD, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE A MORE RATIONAL EXPLANATION OF THE KWANGJU UPRISING. HIS DISMISSAL IS AN UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE OF THE COST THAT THE "PURIFICATION" OF BUREAUCRATS MAY HAVE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFECTIVENESS.

[REDACTED]

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(RASMUSSEN)

6. KOREAN-AMERICANS VISIT PYONGYANG (U)

A GROUP OF KOREAN-AMERICANS HEADED BY KIM KWANG-HUN, A PROFESSOR AT COPPIN STATE COLLEGE IN MARYLAND, IS CURRENTLY VISITING NORTH KOREA. KCNA HAS REPORTED THAT THE GROUP "HAD EMOTIONAL REUNION WITH THEIR PARENTS, BROTHERS AND RELATIVES FROM WHOM THEY HAD BEEN SEPARATED FOR TENS OF YEARS DOWING TO THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY AND NATION". (RASMUSSEN)

7. PURIFICATION OF NORTH KOREAN MISSION TO THE UN [REDACTED]

PERHAPS INSPIRED BY THE ONGOING "PURIFICATION" OF SOUTH KOREAN SOCIETY, THE DPRK OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UN APPEARS TO BE UNDERTAKING ITS OWN "PURIFICATION" DRIVE. NINE OFFICIALS, OVER ONE THIRD OF THE MISSION, ARE BEING RECALLED. WE ARE UNSURE OF THE REASON FOR THIS MASS TRANSFER, OR OF THE REPLACEMENTS FOR THOSE LEAVING, BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY MORE THAN A ROUTINE CYCLE OF SUMMER TRANSFERS. (RASMUSSEN)

8. FREE TRADE? (U)

A KOREAN TEXTILE DELEGATION MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AUGUST 4-7 TO DISCUSS ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM THE APRIL NEGOTIATIONS. THERE WAS SOME PROGRESS WITH RESPECT TO OUR EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN KOREAN EXPORTS OF DOWN APPAREL, COTTON DUCK AND ACRYLIC YARN. (RICHMOND) CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY DC/T: POUCHED AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY.

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