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TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEUL 010558

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

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8426
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
SA CINCPAC KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.D. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS,
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHOI'S STATEMENT

1. U - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. CHOI, KYU HAH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AUGUST 16, 1980 SEOUL.

DEAR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN

WITH THE SUDDEN PASSING AWAY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT ON 26TH OCTOBER LAST YEAR, I ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE ACTING PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED AS THE 10TH PRESIDENT ON THE BASIS OF ASPIRATIONS AND CONSENSUS OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE WHO WANTED SECURITY OF OUR STATE AND POLITICAL, SOCIAL STABILITY. SINCE THEN, I HAVE BEEN DISCHARGING HEAVY DUTIES OF THE
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HIGHEST OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR STATE AFFAIRS.

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT A DEEP SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WHO, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF TURMOIL FOLLOWING THE EVENT OF OCTOBER 26, HAVE ACTIVELY CO-OPERATED TO PROTECT SAFETY OF OUR STATE AND OUR NATION'S SURVIVAL.

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AT THE SAME TIME, AS THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF OUR ARMED

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FORCES, I WISH TO PRAISE AGAIN EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE BEEN DETERRING NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS' VIOLENT ACTIONS BY MAINTAINING STRONG DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE FACE OF NATIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

I HAVE EXPRESSED MY VIEWS CONCERNING OUR NATIONAL SITUATION IN A SERIES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUCH AS THE "SPECIAL STATEMENT ON THE NATION'S EMERGENCY SITUATION" ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1979, THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON DECEMBER 21, 1979 AND THE "STATEMENT ON STATE AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DISCIPLINE" DELIVERED ON JUNE 12, 1980.

TO REPEAT IT BRIEFLY, MY BELIEF HAS BEEN THAT, FACED WITH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, WE SHOULD REGARD PROTECTION OF THE NATION'S SAFETY AND SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE AS THE FIRST PRIORITY TASK. AND I HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR MY DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH THE TRADITION OF PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER BY EFFECTIVELY PURSUING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND ELECTIONS, IN RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE TIMES, WHILE ACCOMPLISHING STABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD BY MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER AND SOCIAL STABILITY.

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I AM SURE MY FELLOW CITIZENS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE DEVOTED SELFLESS EFFORTS TO MANAGING AND OVERCOMING NATIONAL CRISIS, PREVENTING RECURRENCE OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA BY STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S DEFENSE POSTURE IN THE FACE OF NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS' SUSPICIOUS MOVES SINCE LAST NOVEMBER ON THE ONE HAND AND MAINTAINING THE CONTINUITY OF THE STATE BY PREVENTING DISRUPTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT ON THE OTHER.

IN CARRYING OUT THESE TASKS, WHAT WAS NEEDED ABOVE ALL ELSE WAS THE UNITY OF OUR PEOPLE THROUGH SELF-RESTRAINT AND MUTUAL RECONCILIATION. THAT IS WHY I REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED ON EVERY OCCASION THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND APPEALED TO THE NATION FOR UNITY, AND ALSO TOOK A SERIES OF STEPS INCLUDING THE LIFTING OF EMERGENCY DECREE NUMBER 9 IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

FELLOW COUNTRY MEN

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UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF PURSUING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, THOSE WHO IGNORED OUR NATION'S SPECIAL SECURITY SITUATION AS WELL AS SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES BEHAVED SO AS TO OVERHEAT THE

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NATIONAL MISFORTUNE WHICH PAINS OUR HEARTS.

IN THE CASE OF THE "KWANGJU INCIDENT", WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESTORE LAW AND ORDER THROUGH APPROPRIATE EFFORTS OF OUR MARSHAL LAW FORCES, THE WISDOM AND COOPERATION OF THE MAJORITY OF KWANGJU CITIZENS, AND THE COOL, RATIONAL BEHAVIOR OF OUR PEOPLE AS A MATURE AND CIVILIZED NATION.

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD CLOSE COOPERATION OF THE MILITARY, GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CITIZENS IN DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE "KWANGJU INCIDENT" AND HELPING HEAL ITS WOUNDS.

ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE COME TO REALIZE THROUGH PAINFUL EXPERIENCE AND AT A GREAT COST THAT DISRUPTION OF THE NATION'S LEGAL ORDER OR DESTRUCTION OF SOCIAL STABILITY DIRECTLY THREATENS SAFETY OF THE NATION. WE HAVE ALSO COME TO REALIZE THAT WITHOUT ORDER AND STABILITY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPECT STABILITY OF PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD, ECONOMIC GROWTH OR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

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AS THE PRESIDENT WHO HAS THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR STATE AFFAIRS, I HAVE BEEN PAINFULLY AWARE OF MY OWN POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HAVING CAUSED GREAT ANXIETY AMONG OUR PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE DISTURBANCES TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED AS ABOVE. BUT DETERMINED TO PROTECT SURVIVAL OF THE NATION BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, I TOOK THE "MAY 17TH MEASURE". SUBSEQUENTLY, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

MEASURES WAS BROUGHT INTO BEING AND HAS BEEN PERFORMING ITS FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY BY FACILITATING CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CABINET AND THE MARSHAL LAW AUTHORITIES. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES IS CONCENTRATING ITS EFFORTS ON FIRMLY ESTABLISHING NATIONAL DISCIPLINE, CLEANING UP THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE AND REFORMING PUBLIC POLICIES. VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE MARSHAL LAW AUTHORITIES ALSO ARE SOLIDLY PERFORMING THEIR PROPER DUTIES IN CARRYING OUT NECESSARY MEASURES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

IN THE MEANTIME, I AM SURE YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT OUR ECONOMY, WHICH COULD NOT ESCAPE STAGNATION DUE TO THE RECESSION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND ESPECIALLY THE RISE OF THE OIL PRICE, WAS FURTHER HIT HARD BY THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL TURMOIL. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, SUCCEEDED IN SECURING THE SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF CRUDE OIL REQUIRED BY OUR ECONOMY, THANKS TO OUR MULTIPLE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AS WELL AS MY OWN VISITS TO OIL-PRODUCING MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. AND WITH THE RESTORATION OF DOMESTIC LAW AND SOCIAL ORDER, OUR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES HAVE BEGUN TO IMPROVE GRADUALLY. PRICES ARE RELATIVELY STABILIZED AND EXPORTS ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF EXPANSION, WHILE THE UN-
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EMPLOYMENT RATE IS DECLINING.

WITH REGARD TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, THE BASIC FRAME-
WORK IS NOW BEING WORKED OUT THROUGH SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN THE DRAFTING SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DELIBERATION COMMITTEE. IT IS, THEREFORE, EXPECTED THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROCEED SMOOTHLY IN THE FUTURE.

DEAR FELLOW COUNTRY MEN

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME THE NATIONAL CRISIS WHICH FOLLOVED THE OCTOBER 26TH EVENT AND OUR NATION'S FOUNDATION IS ONCE AGAIN BEING SOLIDIFIED WITH THE RESTORATION OF ORDER AND STABILITY. NOW, THEREFORE, IS THE MOMENT OF GREAT TRANSITION WHEN EVERY CITIZEN, INCLUDING MYSELF, SHOULD CALMLY REFLECT ON THE PAST AND PLAN AHEAD FOR THE PROGRESS OF OUR NATION ONCE AGAIN.

THERE ARE STILL MANY PROBLEMS ON THE ROAD AHEAD, AND WE CONTINUE TO FACE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS WITHIN AND WITHOUT.

IF WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ACHIEVE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH, AND AT THE SAME TIME PURSUE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMENSURATE THEREWITH, WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO LET OUR NATIONAL UNITY

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TURNING POINT FOR THE BUILDING OF A NEW, HAPPY COMMUNITY OF STABILITY, MORALITY AND PROSPERITY, WHICH IS THE DEMAND OF OUR TIMES. IT CAN BE BUILT WITH UNITY AND CONSENSUS THROUGH CHANGE OF OUR ATTITUDES. I INTEND TO PUT AN END TO OUR UNHAPPY POLITICAL HISTORY BY ESTABLISHING THE PRECEDENT OF PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER AND TO ELIMINATE THE CLIMATE OF MUTUAL DISTRUST BY PRACTICING POLITICS OF RESPONSIBILITY.

I HAVE, IN OTHER WORDS, DECIDED TODAY TO STEP DOWN FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND TRANSFER THE GOVERNMENT TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT AS PROVIDED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

SPEAKING OF PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER IN DEMOCRATIC STATE, I BELIEVE IT IS CERTAINLY AN ASPECT OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE INCUMBENT OF THE HIGHEST OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR STATE AFFAIRS TO TRANSFER THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE SUCCESSOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES WITH HIS OWN JUDGMENT AND DETERMINATION THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE
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NATION.

EVEN AS I LEAVE THE PRESIDENCY, RESTORED SOCIAL STABILITY AND FRUITS OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GAINED BY OUR CITIZENS WITH SWEAT WILL PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT THERE WILL NOT OCCUR NATIONAL INSTABILITY OR CONFUSION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF STATE AFFAIRS.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT OUR MUTUAL SECURITY SYSTEM WITH OUR

ALLY, THE UNITED STATES, WILL BE FIRMLY MAINTAINED. OUR RELATIONSHIP OF CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS INCLUDING JAPAN WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP FURTHER WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTION.

FURTHERMORE, I EXPECT THAT MY FELLOW CITIZENS WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND MY TRUE INTENTIONS IN THIS IMPORTANT DECISION. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU ALL THAT EVEN OUT OF GOVERNMENT I SHALL REMAIN STEADFAST AS ONE OF THE PRIVATE CITIZENS IN MY UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO THE NATION AND HER PEOPLE.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN
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I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AS A DEMOCRATIC STATE AS WELL AS PROSPECTS OF OUR CONTINUED NATIONAL PROGRESS WILL BE BRIGHT AND FULL OF HOPE WHEN WE CONDUCT VARIOUS NATIONAL AFFAIRS BY UNITING FIRMLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES WHILE MAINTAINING ORDER AND STABILITY THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS AMONG ALL OUR CITIZENS.

IT IS ALSO MY HOPE THAT, AS WE GO THROUGH THIS IMPORTANT TRANSITION PERIOD AND TRY TO BUILD CONDITIONS CONDUCTIVE TO CLEAN AND HAPPY POLITICAL LIFE, POLITICIANS AND SOCIAL
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LEADERS IN PARTICULAR WILL VOLUNTARILY COOPERATE IN CREATING FRESH AND HEALTHY POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CLIMATE BY SWEEPING AWAY THE ACCUMULATED ERRORS OF THE PAST.

TODAY, AS I LEAVE THE PRESIDENCY, I ONCE AGAIN WISH TO APPEAL TO YOU ALL TO UNITE TOGETHER WITH UNDERSTANDING AND RECONCILIATION INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION AND DISUNITY. UNITED, WE CAN BUILD TOGETHER A PROSPEROUS AND STRONG DEMOCRATIC NATION WITH UNFLINCHING COURAGE AND WILL, AND THUS LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF OUR FATHERLAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL, HISTORICAL LEGITIMACY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

EACH OF US MUST MAKE HIS OWN BEST EFFORTS TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS FATHERLAND OF WHICH OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN BE PROUD.

FINALLY, I WISH TO EXPRESS A PROFOUND SENSE OF GRATITUDE TO ALL OF OUR CITIZENS WHO HAVE EXTENDED TO ME IN THE MEANTIME DEEP UNDERSTANDING AND UNSPARING SUPPORT. I PRAY FOR PEACE, STABILITY, GLORY AND PROSPERITY IN THE FUTURE OF OUR REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND HER PEOPLE. THANK YOU.
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