

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEOUL 010567

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSD-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10
L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-15 ACDA-12 AID-07 /093 W
-----113086 160524Z /10

O 160458Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8433
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCUMC.KS
CHJUSMAG-SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 10567

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: FURTHER ROKG PRESS RELEASE ON PRESIDENT'S
RESIGNATION

REF: SEOUL 10558

1. THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION RELEASED THE
FOLLOWING "BACKGROUND MATERIAL" AUGUST 16 ON THE RESIGNA-
TION OF PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH (M-R: CH'OE KYU-HA):

BEGIN TEXT:

- PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RESIGNATION TODAY,
PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH MADE HIS DECISION KNOWN TO ACTING
PRIME MINISTER PARK CHOONG-HOON (M-R: PAK CHUNG-HUN),
ACTING SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MIN KWAN-SHIK
(M-R: MIN KWAN-SIK), CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
YI YONG-SOP (M-R), CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES
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GENERAL CHUN DOO-HWAN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN), MARTIAL LAW
COMMANDER LEE HUI-SEUNG (M-R: YI HUI-SONG), STEERING
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LEE CHUN-KI (M-R: YI CHUN-KI) AND
SECRETARY GENERAL PAK YONG-SU (M-R) OF THE NATIONAL CON-
FERENCE FOR UNIFICATION.

- AT 9 A.M. TODAY, PRESIDENT CHOI CALLED ACTING PRIME
MINISTER PARK CHOONG-HOON, ALL CABINET MINISTERS, AND ALL
MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

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

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PA Exemptions _____		

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(E.O. 12065)
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FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES TO THE BLUE HOUSE AND EXPLAINED HIS DETERMINATION TO RESIGN. THAT ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AT 10 A.M. AT 11 A.M., GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION LEE KWANG-PYO (M-R: YI KWANG-PYO) ANNOUNCED THAT, WITH PRESIDENT CHOI'S RESIGNATION, ACTING PRIME MINISTER PARK CHOONG-HOON ASSUMED THE AUTHORITY OF ACTING PRESIDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 48 OF THE CONSTITUTION. A SPECIAL CABINET MEETING WILL BE CONVENED AT 2 P.M.

- THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT CHOI DOES NOT AFFECT THE CONTINUITY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF KOREA. THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT AND THE FULFILLMENT OF THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE WILL PROCEED ON A CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS AND IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.

- THERE IS NO CHANGE IN MAJOR DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN POLICIES PURSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

- THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH SHOULD BE EXAMINED AND CAN ONLY BE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD WHEN PLACED IN THE PROPER CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVE.

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INTEREST OR AMBITION, PRESIDENT CHOI MADE HIS COURAGEOUS DECISION FROM A FIRM CONVICTION THAT IT WOULD SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. IN A STATEMENT ON NOVEMBER 10, 1979 AS ACTING PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS IN HIS INAUGURAL AND OTHER SUBSEQUENT SPEECHES, PRESIDENT CHOI MADE IT CONSISTENTLY CLEAR THAT HE SHOULD NOT SERVE THE FULL REMAINING TERM BUT WOULD TRANSFER POWER TO A NEW GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

- LEADERSHIP WITH THE STRENGTH TO COPE WITH THE CHAOS AND THE CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER POSED BY THE THREAT OF NORTH KOREAN INVASION WAS THE PARAMOUNT NATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 26 INCIDENT.

- THE GOVERNMENT FORMED AT THAT TIME COULD NOT TRANSCEND ITS NATURE AS AN INTERIM OR TRANSITIONAL ONE, MAKING A DISPLAY OF THE URGENTLY NEEDED STRENGTH A PRACTICAL IMPOSSIBILITY. LARGE-SCALE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, INDISCRIMINATE LABOR DISPUTES AND THE KWANGJU TURMOIL ALL TRANSPIRED WITHIN THE VACUUM OF LEADERSHIP. PRESIDENT CHOI'S PERCEPTION THAT THE FILLING OF THAT VACUUM WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SECURE NATIONAL SECURITY AND SUSTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROMPTED HIS DECISION.

- IN A SPEECH ACCEPTING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY, PRESIDENT CHOI NOTED THAT IT WAS HIS HISTORIC MISSION TO

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- WITH THE PROMULGATION OF NATIONWIDE EXTRAORDINARY MARTIAL LAW ON MAY 17, STUDENT RIOTS AND THE KWANGJU TURMOIL WERE COUNTERED WITH THE RESTORATION OF STABILITY, ORDER AND THE RULE OF LAW. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL CHUN DOO-HWAN, SOCIAL REFORMS AND OTHER MEASURES ESTABLISHED A BASIS TO CREATE A NATIONAL CONSENSUS AND A DEMOCRATIC WELFARE STATE.

- THE RESPONSE TO THESE MEASURES HAS BEEN A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF THE POPULAR WILL TO OPEN A NEW ERA. NOW THAT THE NATION'S PROPER COURSE FOR THE FUTURE IS MANIFEST, IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE PERIOD OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE CURTAILED TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EXTENT. IN SHORT, PRESIDENT CHOI DELINEATED HIS HISTORIC MISSION AND FLEDGED TO STEP ASIDE UPON ITS COMPLETION. HIS SELFLESSLY PATRIOTIC DECISION TO RESIGN SET A PRECEDENT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS SUPERSEDING THE PERSONAL AND OPENED AN ERA OF LEGITIMATE AND RESPONSIBLE POLITICS, COMPLETING THAT MISSION AND FULFILLING HIS PUBLIC PLEDGE.

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- AS IN ANY DECISION OF SUCH HISTORIC IMPORT, A NUMBER OF OTHER, CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY PRESIDENT CHOI. AS THE SUPREME NATIONAL LEADER, HE FELT AN ACUTE SENSE OF MORAL AND POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES AND THE KWANGJU TURMOIL. IN THIS SENSE, HIS PERSONAL INTEGRITY BOLSTERED HIS PERCEPTION OF WHAT WOULD BEST SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. PRESIDENT CHOI'S POLITICAL MORALITY AND CONVICTIONS HAVE ESTABLISHED THE PRECEDENT DEMANDED BY THE TIMES.

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- HIS DECISION TO RESIGN MUST ALSO BE EXAMINED IN THE CONTEXT OF NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION. THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO WITNESSING A CHAOTIC SITUATION WAS TO DEMAND A CURTAILMENT OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, FOR TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP COULD NOT SUFFICIENTLY SECURE THE NATION'S SURVIVAL OR TRULY ACHIEVE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. PRESIDENT CHOI'S DECISION TO STEP DOWN THUS RECOGNIZED THAT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE COINCIDED WITH VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS.

- EVEN IF SUCH PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATIONS AS NATIONAL SECURITY ARE SET ASIDE, PRESIDENT CHOI'S DECISION WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE FIXED THROUGH REFERENDUM, AND PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BASED ON IT WILL FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO ADVANCE IT, STRONG LEADERSHIP IS A PRIME NECESSITY.

- THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT, AND THE PROMOTION OF THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE, WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH LEGITIMATE PROCESSES. SINCE PRESIDENT CHOI'S RESIGNATION IS INTENDED TO SHORTEN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, AND TO FACILITATE THE INSTITUTION OF STRONG LEADERSHIP, THE SUBSEQUENT PERIOD OF UNCLASSIFIED
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AN ACTING PRESIDENCY SHOULD ALSO BE AS BRIEF AS PRACTICABLE.

- CONSIDERABLE TIME MAY BE REQUIRED TO ELECT A PRESIDENT UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION. TO RETAIN AN ACTING PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD WOULD VERY LIKELY ONLY ADD TO THE CONFUSION FROM WHICH THE NATION IS NOW EMERGING. ACCORDINGLY, A NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL STABILITY AND REALIZE THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE.

- A MAN WHO CAN WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WILL THEREFORE EMERGE AS PRESIDENT THROUGH LEGITIMATE, DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AS PROVIDED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

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