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E.O. 12065: RDS-3, 8/18/90 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, PEPR, SCUL, BTIO, ECON, EFIN, KS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH

1. OUR PUBLIC IS BEING ACTIVELY HEARD (LOU)

IN THE PAST TEN DAYS, I HAVE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME TALKING TO AND MEETING WITH GROUPS OUTSIDE THE DEPARTMENT IN AN EFFORT BOTH TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING AND SEEK THOUGHTFUL INPUT:

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-- FOR A WEEK, I PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST ASPEN INSTITUTE SEMINAR ON KOREA. THIS PROVED AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESSMEN DON BONKER AND LEE HAMILTON, AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT TOURS D'HORIZON WITH A SPECTRUM OF HIGHLY ARTICULATE BUSINESSMEN (INCLUDING WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S LOS ANGELES LAW PARTNER). ALTHOUGH ALL WERE TROUBLED TO VARIOUS DEGREES BY IMMEDIATE EVENTS, THE WEEK PROVIDED A REASSURING LONGER-TERM VIEW

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OF KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS AND THE UNDERLYING COMPONENTS AND STRENGTHS OF THE US-KOREA RELATIONSHIP.

-- LAST MONDAY AFTERNOON, I JOINED A CLUTCH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AS AN EXAMINER FOR A DOCTORAL DISSERTATION CANDIDATE WHO HAD WRITTEN ON THE ROK-US SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. THIS WAS A USEFUL INTERCHANGE, BUT SOMEWHAT SAD AS WE FLUNKED THE CANDIDATE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS PUT ON THE SPOT WHEN I WAS ASKED TO UNDERTAKE QUESTIONING THE CANDIDATE FIRST AND LATER ALSO TO GIVE A FIRST OPINION. I WAS REASSURED THAT INADEQUATE TO ME ALSO WAS JUDGED INADEQUATE BY MY PROFESSORIAL COLLEAGUES.

-- TUESDAY EVENING I SPENT WITH A DOZEN KOREAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL MEN (DOCTORS, LAWYERS, ETC.) WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BY THE SURGEON WHO WENT TO KWANGJU ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. THIS PREVIOUSLY RELATIVELY UNINVOLVED GROUP HAS BECOME VERY CONCERNED BY RECENT EVENTS IN KOREA AND WE HAD A MOST USEFUL EXCHANGE. I JUDGE THIS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETINGS I HAVE HAD LATELY.

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-- THURSDAY EVENING FOUND ME SPEAKING TO THE FALLS CHURCH ROTARY CLUB, A GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN WHOSE PRINCIPAL COMPLAINT WAS THE AMERICAN PRESUMPTION TO TELL OTHER PEOPLES HOW TO RUN THEIR POLITICS.

-- A LUNCHEON MEETING BROUGHT TOGETHER RALPH CLOUGH AND DR. VINCENT BRANDT, PAST AND FUTURE TRAVELERS TO NORTH KOREA. BRANDT AND EZRA VOGEL OF HARVARD EXPECT TO BE IN NORTH KOREA NEXT MONTH.

-- THE WEEK ENDED WITH A LONG EVENING IN WHICH I BROUGHT TOGETHER AN ELOQUENT KOREAN PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK. THE PROFESSOR EXPECTS TO BE A CABINET MINISTER IN CHUN'S GOVERNMENT, AND I USED THEM BOTH AS A PLATFORM TO HEAR OUR CONCERNS AS WELL AS MEET EACH OTHER.

-- I STILL HAVEN'T TALKED TO THE BANNER HOLDERS, BUT I'M GETTING THERE' (RICH)

2. CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD CHUN TAKEOVER (C)

ON AUGUST 16 WOLFF COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS TOLD DOUG RASMUSSEN AND BILL BREER THAT THEY THOUGHT CONGRESS WOULD ON THE WHOLE ADOPT A WAIT-AND-SEE APPROACH TO THE CHUN ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY. THEY WERE INTERESTED IN

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WEIGHING IN PUBLICLY ON THE KIM DAE JUNG CASE, BUT SAID THEY WOULD CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING TO DEFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT RESOLUTIONS, HIGH-POSTURE PUBLIC STATEMENTS, ETC. WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE IN SAVING THE LIFE OF KIM DAE JUNG THAN CONTINUED QUIET DIPLOMACY. (BREER)

3. KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL (U)

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AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TRIAL TODAY, THE DEFENDANTS' CLAIMS THAT THE COURT HAD NO JURISDICTION WERE REJECTED AND THE COURT ADOPTED A PROSECUTION MOTION TO TRY KIM DAE JUNG SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER DEFENDANTS. KIM REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, ACCUSED THE COURT OF POLITICAL REPRESSION AND SAID HE WOULD RESPOND ONLY TO CROSS EXAMINATION FROM HIS OWN LAWYER. KIM NOW HAS A TEAM OF SIX LAWYERS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY KIM. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THE TRIAL MIGHT BE SHORT IF KIM CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. (BREER)

4. PURIFICATION OF THE SUPREME COURT (C)

ON AUGUST 9, FIVE OF THE FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT TENDERED THEIR RESIGNATIONS, WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED. WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY CRITERIA FOR "PURIFICATION" OF THE ROK JUDICIARY, IT MAY BE MORE THAN COINCIDENCE THAT THESE JUSTICES REPORTEDLY VOTED AGAINST UPHOLDING PARK ASSASSIN KIM JAE-KYU'S SENTENCE. THE AUTHORITIES OBVIOUSLY SEE NO PERCENTAGE IN TAKING UNNECESSARY CHANCES. (RASMUSSEN)

5. ROK RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS ON TRADE AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION (C)

SOUTH KOREA RESPONDED IN TWO PARTS TO THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS MADE TO CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ CONCERNING NORTH-SOUTH TRADE AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION. ON AUGUST 12 THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROK RED CROSS SOCIETY PROPOSED A MEETING PLACE BE ESTABLISHED IN PANMUNJOM TO ARRANGE "BRIEF REUNIONS OF AGED PARENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES". HE ALSO PROPOSED A MAIL EXCHANGE AND A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE

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EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE WISHING TO VISIT THEIR ANCESTRAL GRAVES. IN CALLING FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RESUMPTION OF

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THE RED CROSS TALKS, THE STATEMENT SHARPLY BLAMED NORTH KOREA FOR BREAKING OFF THE PREVIOUS TALKS.

ON AUGUST 15 FORMER PRESIDENT CHOI REFERRED TO NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS IN HIS NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS. IN BETWEEN

PROPAGANDA BLASTS WHICH STRONGLY CONDEMNED NORTH KOREA FOR THE USUAL LITANY OF SINS, CHOI INCLUDED STATEMENTS THAT SOUTH KOREA IS, OF COURSE, ALWAYS READY FOR VARIOUS EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION. THE FIRST POST-SOLARZ NORTH-SOUTH WORKING LEVEL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY. (RASMUSSEN)

6. CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH NORTH KOREA [REDACTED]

KIM IL-SUNG WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE TOLD CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ THAT NORTH KOREA WANTED CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH THE U.S. SINCE OUR LAST STATUS REPORT WE ARE AWARE OF TWO MORE GROUPS WHO HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS. EZRA VOGEL AND VINCENT BRANDT PLAN TO VISIT NORTH KOREA THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. VINCENT BRANDT WAS IN TOWN LAST WEEK AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY, WITH SOLARZ' PERMISSION, TO REVIEW MATERIAL FROM SOLARZ' VISIT.

THE INTERNATIONAL TAE KWON DO FEDERATION PLANS TO VISIT NORTH KOREA FOR TWO WEEKS AROUND THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER TO PUT ON DEMONSTRATIONS IN MAJOR CITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS VISIT IS BEING ARRANGED BY CHOI HONG-HI, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION AND A FORMER ROK MAJOR GENERAL, WHO HAS LATELY BEEN AN ACTIVE OPPONENT OF THE ROK GOVERNMENT LIVING IN CANADA. (RASMUSSEN)

7. NORTH KOREA COURTS THE JAPANESE (U)

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KIM YOUNG-NAM, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH REPORTERS FROM THE JAPANESE DAILY MAINCHI SHIMBUN, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NORTH KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS COULD BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WOULD BE EXPANDED. THE PITCH WAS VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ HEARD FROM HIM IN PYONGYANG AND IS INDICATIVE THAT THE NORTH KOREAN "PEACE OFFENSIVE" WILL BE PRESSED ON SEVERAL FRONTS. REPORTEDLY, SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT JAPANESE DELEGATIONS PLAN TO VISIT NORTH KOREA IN SEPTEMBER. SOUTH KOREAN MEDIA HAVE PUBLICLY LINKED "THE NORTH KOREA POLICY AGAINST SEOUL" WITH THE SOLARZ VISIT AND HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THESE DEVELOPMENTS. (RASMUSSEN)

8. EXPORT PROMOTION? (U)

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CONGRESSMAN JOHN SEIBERLING AND 27 COLLEAGUES HAVE WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER PROPOSING THAT EXIM PRELIMINARY COMMITMENTS TO FINANCE PHASE I OF THE KOREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPANSION PROJECT BE REVERSED TO SIGNAL U.S.

DISPLEASURE WITH RECENT EVENTS IN KOREA. EA/K IS CLEARING A REPLY WHICH NOTES THAT THE PROPOSED ACTION WOULD INJURE ONLY THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE SUPPLIERS WAITING IN THE WINGS, AND THE ACTION WOULD VIOLATE SECTION 2(C) OF EXIM'S LEGISLATION. (RICHMOND)

9. SHOTGUN MARRIAGE ( [REDACTED] )

GENERAL CHUN DOD HWAN APPARENTLY HAS APPROVED A FORCED MERGER OF KOREA'S AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY UNDER THE AEGIS OF HYUNDAI, AND OF KOREA'S SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY UNDER THE [REDACTED]

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AEGIS OF DAEWOO. THE MERGERS ARE SUPPOSED TO PROMOTE IMPROVED EFFICIENCY THROUGH ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND WERE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED BY AN IBRD CONSULTANT. (IBRD SUPPORT FOR MONOPOLY ?). EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE PROMOTERS OF THE MERGERS OR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE COMPANIES. (RICHMOND)

10. PERSONNEL NOTES (U)

DOUG MC NEAL DEPARTED THE DESK ON AUGUST 8 TO BEGIN CHINESE LANGUAGE TRAINING. AFTER TWO YEARS OF LOYAL AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN EA/K. HIS REPLACEMENT, FRED ASHLEY, WON'T BE ON BOARD UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER LEAVING US WITHOUT A FULL-TIME SOUTH KOREAN POLITICAL OFFICER OR ANYONE BESIDES MYSELF WHO HAS EVER SERVED IN KOREA. WITH SUMMER LEAVE SCHEDULES AND THE NEED TO HAVE OUR NEW OFFICERS VISIT KOREA IN SEPTEMBER, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU GET A GURGLING SOUND WHEN YOU TRY TO CALL EA/K. IT IS ONLY THE WATER SLOWLY RISING ABOVE OUR HEADS. (RASMUSSEN) CHRISTOPHER

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