

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSTATE 237970

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E.O. 12065: RDS-3, 9/5/90 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PEPR, PINT, SHUM, EFIN, SEDU, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH

1. NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED

THE NEW CABINET IS AN IMPRESSIVE SURPRISE -- COMPOSED OF  
GENERALLY HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND WELL-RESPECTED CIVILIANS,  
MANY AMERICAN EDUCATED. THE REACTION BOTH WITHIN KOREA  
AND INTERNATIONALLY HAS BEEN GENERALLY VERY POSITIVE,  
WITH THE PROMINENT ROLE OF WIDELY RESPECTED ECONOMISTS

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AND REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF FORMER MILITARY DRAWING  
PARTICULARLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE. THE "NEW GENERATION"  
THEME IS ALSO DISCERNABLE. WITH TYPICAL THOROUGHNESS THE  
JAPANESE HAVE COMPUTED THAT THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE NEW  
CABINET IS 51.4 YEARS COMPARED WITH 65.2 FOR ITS  
PREDECESSOR. THE ONLY SOUR NOTE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING  
FROM WITHIN THE ARMY THAT THE CABINET HAS SUCH A "CIVILIAN  
CHARACTER AND THAT ARMY OFFICERS WERE NOT GIVEN HIGH  
POSITION TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION TO "PURIFY" THE

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FOIA Exemptions _____		TWAINSWORTH TS authority to
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SOCIETY. (RASMUSSEN/ RICH)

2. DULCET TONES FROM THE BLUE HOUSE

NOW THAT KOREA'S VERSION OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IS OVER IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN IS READY TO TRY GOVERNING THE COUNTRY. HE SAID MOST OF THE RIGHT THINGS IN HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS, MADE A QUICK TRIP TO KWANGJU YESTERDAY DURING WHICH HE PROMISED TO BUILD A NEW SUPERHIGHWAY INTO THE CHOLLA PROVINCES, AND HAS TAKEN OTHER ACTIONS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE AN AIR OF "NORMALCY." WE MAY BE LOOKING TOO HARD, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FEWER ATTEMPTS IN THE LAST DAY OR SO TO DISTORT STATEMENTS BY U.S. OFFICIALS. (RICHMOND)

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3. PRISONER RELEASES (U)

TO MARK CHUN'S INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT 1,139 "REPENTANT" CRIMINALS WERE AMNESTIED. EARLIER, ON AUGUST 31, SOME 9,600 "HOOLIGANS AND GANGSTERS" WERE RELEASED FROM RE-EDUCATION CAMPS "AS THEY HAD GREATLY REPENTED THEIR PAST MISDEEDS AND PLEDGED TO LEAD A NEW LIFE IN THE NEW ERA." THERE REMAIN QUITE A FEW STILL UNDERGOING "RE-EDUCATION". (RASMUSSEN)

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4. INDICTMENTS, TRIALS AND SENTENCES: THE JUDICIAL PROCESS ROLLS ON

REPORTEDLY 10 OF KIM DAE JUNG'S ASSOCIATES WERE CONVICTED OF MARTIAL LAW VIOLATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND EXPECT TO RECEIVE JAIL SENTENCES. WE FIRST LEARNED OF THIS TOTALLY UNPUBLICIZED TRIAL FROM THE WIVES OF SOME OF THOSE CONVICTED WHO MET WITH JEFF SMITH ON SEPTEMBER 3. IN ADDITION, 175 PERSONS, INCLUDING A KEY FIGURE IN THE KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL, WERE INDICTED ON SEPTEMBER 5 FOR MARTIAL LAW VIOLATIONS AND INSTIGATION OF REBELLION IN CONNECTION WITH THE KWANGJU UPRISING.

UNDER THE CATEGORY OF OLD BUSINESS, SENTENCES FOR DEFENDANTS IN TWO WELL KNOWN TRIALS, THE YWCA CASE AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CASE, WERE REVIEWED. DEFENDANTS IN THE YWCA CASE HAD THEIR SENTENCES UPHELD ALTHOUGH FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN AND ELDERLY QUAKER HAM SOK-HUN ARE EXCUSED FROM SERVING THEIR SENTENCE BECAUSE OF THEIR AGE. IN THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT CASE 5 DEATH SENTENCES WERE COMMUTED TO LIFE IN PRISON WHILE TWO DEATH SENTENCES WERE UPHELD. THE COURT ALSO REDUCED SENTENCES FOR THE OTHER 66 DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE. (RASMUSSEN)

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5. THE SILVER LINING

I HAD AN INTERESTING SESSION A FEW DAYS AGO WITH TWO YOUNG KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN HERE ON ICA LEADER GRANTS, ONE FROM EACH MAJOR PARTY. ALTHOUGH CANDID ABOUT PROBLEMS, THEY WERE REMARKABLY UPBEAT ABOUT THE FUTURE. ALTHOUGH I WILL HAVE TO RUMINATE ON THIS ONE FOR AWHILE, I LEAVE YOU WITH THEIR SUGGESTION THAT, AS IT TOOK A REPUBLICAN TO MAKE THE FIRST OPENING TOWARD CHINA, IT MAY TAKE THE KOREAN MILITARY TO REALLY MAKE

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POSITIVE STRIDES TOWARD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN KOREA. NOW THERE IS A LEAP OF FAITH. (RICH)

6. NORTH KOREA BLASTS CHUN AND THE U.S.

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS NORTH KOREAN MEDIA HAS UNLEASHED A BARRAGE OF PERSONAL VILLIFICATION AGAINST CHUN DOO HWAN THAT IS UNEQUALLED EVEN BY THEIR OWN EXTREME STANDARDS. THEY HAVE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE AND MILITARY TO RISE UP AGAINST CHUN SAYING THAT "EITHER THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY AND REUNIFICATION WILL BE BLOCKED ONCE AND FOR ALL AND MILITARY FASCISM AND NATIONAL DIVISION PROLONGED OR A FASCIST DICTATORSHIP WILL BE TERMINATED..."

NORTH KOREA HAS ALSO RESUMED PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS THROUGH LOUDSPEAKERS ACROSS THE TRUCE LINE. SOUTH KOREA HAS PROTESTED THIS AS A VIOLATION OF A PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

WE HAVE ALSO COME IN FOR OUR SHARE OF CRITICISM. NORTH KOREA HAS BITTERLY CONDEMNED THE U.S. AND PRESIDENT CARTER SPECIFICALLY FOR PROVIDING AID AND COMFORT TO CHUN AND HIS GANG. THEY HAVE ALSO CHARGED THE U.S. WITH ESPIONAGE AND ENCROACHING UPON THEIR SOVEREIGNTY BY SENDING SPY PLANES TO VIOLATE THEIR TERRITORY ON "FIVE OCCASIONS" SINCE AUGUST 14. (RASMUSSEN)

7. SOLARZ AND KOREA

CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ MISSED HIS DATE TO SPEAK TO THE ASIA SOCIETY LAST WEEK ON HIS VISIT TO NORTH KOREA DUE TO THE PRESSURE OF ROLL CALL VOTES. RALPH CLOUGH FILLED IN ABLY IN HIS STEAD AND THE EVENING WENT OFF SMOOTHLY IF

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UNEVENTFULLY. ONE LADY DID FALL OFF HER CHAIR BUT THAT WAS DUE TO THE HEAT RATHER THAN ANYTHING RALPH SAID

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SOLARZ WILL MEET WITH THE SECRETARY THIS WEEKEND TO DISCUSS AFRICA AND HIS VISIT TO KOREA. WE HAVE PREPARED BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR THE KOREAN PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION. SOLARZ HAS WRITTEN A FOLLOWUP LETTER TO

KIM IL SUNG ON THE QUESTION OF MISSING PVT. CHUNG AND IS CONTACTING CHUNG'S PARENTS TO LET THEM KNOW OF HIS EFFORTS ON THEIR SON'S BEHALF. (RASMUSSEN)

8. BUSINESS ATTITUDES [REDACTED]

A STEADY STREAM OF BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS CONTINUES TO FLOW THROUGH EA/K'S DOORS SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS KOREA'S STABILITY OVER THE LIFE OF MEDIUM TERM LOANS, IMPLICATIONS OF THE ROKG PROGRAM FOR INDUSTRIAL RATIONALIZATION AND THE MEANING OF IT ALL. THE MOST FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERNS RELATE TO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT U.S. ATTITUDES AND REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN KOREA. MOST BANKERS ARE MORE UPBEAT THAN THE EMBASSY OR THE DEPARTMENT AND CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON KOREA'S RECORD AS A PROFIT CENTER FOR BANKS, THE RELATIVELY FEW LOW RISK COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF ABSORBING LARGE LOANS AND KOREA'S RECORD FOR PRODUCING RATIONAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP. (RICHMOND)

9. EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES [REDACTED]

KOREAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEGUN OPENING, SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY. THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND ACTIVIST UNIVERSITIES IN SEOUL REMAIN CLOSED, AS DO THE UNIVERSITIES IN KWANGJU. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHUN'S PLEDGE TO OPEN UP HIGHER EDUCATION TO STUDENTS FROM SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY WHO PREVIOUSLY HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, A NUMBER OF COLLEGES WILL BE UPGRADED AND ENLARGED TO "UNIVERSITY" STATUS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT

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THE NUMBER OF FRESHMAN STUDENTS WILL BE INCREASED 50 PERCENT TO 311,000 IN THIS WAY.

BESIDES THE 20,000-ODD PERSONS WHO ARE RECEIVING FREE "RE-EDUCATION", THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED THAT 32,504 SOCIAL LEADERS AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL RECEIVE COURSES IN "SPIRITUAL EDUCATION". (RASMUSSEN)

10. NBC PLANS MAJOR KOREA PROGRAM (U)

REVIVING THE SHOW "NBC MAGAZINE" AS COMPETITION FOR CBS' "60 MINUTES," NBC PLANS ONE OF ITS FIRST HOUR-LONG PROGRAMS IN LATE SEPTEMBER AS A FEATURE ON KOREA. IMET ALMOST TWO HOURS WITH THE PRODUCER THIS WEEK AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PROSPECT FOR A REASONABLY IN-DEPTH AND BROADLY FOCUSED SHOW WHICH MAY HELP ILLUMINE BOTH

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KOREA TODAY AND THE NATURE OF U.S. INTERESTS. THEY HOPE  
TO HAVE ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENT CHUN AND  
AMBASSADOR GLEYSSTEENAMIDST VOLUMINOUS FOOTAGE OF  
FACTORIES, CITIES, FARMS, HISTORICSITESAND THE TRUCE

LINE. (RICH) MUSKIE



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