

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80STATE 272469

EXCISE

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E.O. 12065: RDS-3, 10/9/00 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

TAGS: .GA, OSEP, EAGR, KS, OVIP, EAIR, US, ETRD, SHUM,

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA
WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

O: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH

1. KOREA IN THE UNGA: [

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

R.B. Date. 9/13/93

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(RICH)

2. THE FIRST CODEL (CONF)

THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO GO TO THE ROK SINCE CHUN BECAME PRESIDENT AND KIM DAE JUNG WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH WILL BE CONGRESSMAN BREAUX (DEM - LOUISIANA), WHOSE PRIMARY INTERESTS WILL BE RICE AND FISHERIES. THE RICE ISSUE ALONE WILL BE TANGLED ENOUGH, BUT AS THE FIRST CON-

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GRESSMAN TO ARRIVE WE ANTICIPATE A FULL COURT PRESS ROKG EFFORT TO PRESENT THE BREAUX VISIT AS A RETURN TO NORMALITY IN US-ROK RELATIONS AND AS EVIDENCE THAT THE KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT. BREAUX WILL ARRIVE IN SEOUL OCTOBER 27. THE ONLY OTHER CONGRESSMAN TO GO SINCE THE TURMOIL OF M.D-MAY WAS SOLARZ ON HIS TRIP TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KORCA. IN JULY. (RICH)

3. A LOT OF RICE CHAFF (CONF)

TOO MUCH RAIN IN JULY AND AUGUST LED TO FUNGUS AND OTHER BLIGHTS IN KOREA'S RICE PADDIES. TWO RECENT WEEKS OF WARM WEATHER HELPED SOMEWHAT, BUT THE HARVEST WILL BE VERY POOR. THE ROKG ESTIMATES THAT 1.5-1.6 MILLION TONS OF IMPORTED RICE WILL BE NEEDED. IT SIGNED AGREEMENTS TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 644,000 TONS OF U.S. RICE LAST WEEK AND IS SEEKING SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION TONS MORE. THIS HAS WHETTED THE APPETITES OF U.S. RICE EXPORTERS WHO GENERATED AN ILL-TIMED AND INACCURATE CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN URGING KOREA TO BUY U.S. RICE IMMEDIATELY. THE REAL ISSUES ARE THAT KOREA WILL BUY ALL OF THE LONG GRAIN WEST COAST RICE (MAINLY CALROSE) AVAILABLE BUT SUPPLIES PROBABLY WILL BE WELL SHORT OF A MILLION TONS. KOREANS CLAIM THAT THEY DON'T LIKE AND CAN'T SELL IN THEIR MARKETS THE MEDIUM GRAIN RICE TYPICALLY AVAILABLE IN LARGER QUANTITIES FROM GULF

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COAST PRODUCERS. THEIR TASTE MAY BE SOMEWHAT INFLUENCED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED RICE FROM JAPAN. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU WILL HEAR, AGAIN THIS YEAR, MORE THAN YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JAPANESE RICE SUBSIDIES AND KOREAN "OBLIGATIONS" TO BUY U.S. RICE. (RICHMOND)

4. FORMER PRESIDENT CHOI IN USA (LOU)

FORMER KOREAN PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH ARRIVES IN NEW YORK
[REDACTED]

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CITY OCTOBER 12 AND PROCEEDS TO BOSTON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS. APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. WE KNOW OF NO PLANS AT THIS TIME BY THE PRESIDENT TO COME TO WASHINGTON. (RICH)

5. NORTH KOREAN SUPPLIES TO IRAN [REDACTED]

WHILE THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS REFUSING COMMENT ON REPORTS OF NORTH KOREAN SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO IRAN, TREASURY SECRETARY MILLER WAS CONFIRMING AND ELABORATING ON THE REPORTS AT A LUNCHEON HE WAS HOLDING FOR A GROUP OF REPORTERS. WE WERE SOON BESIEGED BY PHONE CALLS WANTING TO KNOW WHY TREASURY COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT THE STATE DEPT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON. WE SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN CONFIRMING WHAT MILLER SAID WITHOUT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL DETAILS. MOST QUESTIONS HAVE CENTERED ON POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN MOTIVES FOR SUPPLYING IRAN. ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR PRESS THEORIES IS THAT NORTH KOREA IS ACTING AS A SURROGATE FOR THE SOVIETS, WHO ARE TRYING TO PLAY BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE IN THE CONFLICT. (RASMUSSEN)

6. NRC APPROVES EXPORT OF NUCLEAR REACTORS (UNCL)

THE NRC BY A VOTE OF 3-1 REJECTED THE PETITION TO REVIEW THE WESTINGHOUSE EXPORT OF REACTORS FOR KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER UNITS 7 AND 8. THE FINAL APPROVAL TO PERMIT EXPORT IS WELCOME NEWS THAT SHOULD HELP REASSURE THE KOREANS OF OUR RELIABILITY AS A NUCLEAR EXPORTER AND REDUCE THE THREAT THAT FUTURE NUCLEAR-RELATED CONTRACTS WORTH TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS MIGHT BE LOST TO FOREIGN COMPETITION. WE ARE SENDING THE EMBASSY COPIES OF THE NRC'S DECISION (RASMUSSEN)

7. F-16 SWAP OUT ANNOUNCED (UNCL)
[REDACTED]

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PLANNED DEPLOYMENT OF USAF F-16 AIRCRAFT TO KOREA NEXT SUMMER AS A SWAP OUT FOR F-4 SQUADRONS. THIS WILL PERMIT THE PREPOSITIONING OF SPARE PARTS, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO BEGIN. (RICH)

8. ROK OIL VULNERABILITY (LOU)

THE IRAQ-IRAN WAR WILL HAVE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON KOREA. KOREAN REFINERIES REDUCED THEIR IRANIAN CRUDE PURCHASES IN MID-SUMMER TO ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF THEIR DAILY NEEDS. HOWEVER, ALMOST ALL OF KOREA'S CRUDE COMES FROM MIDDLE-EASTERN SOURCES AND REFINERS WOULD BE VULNERABLE WERE THE WAR TO SPREAD. KOREAN REFINERS CLAIM THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN RESERVES FOR 120 DAYS OF NORMAL CONSUMPTION. (RICHMOND)

9. BIRDS OF PREY (CONF)

RECENTLY THE KOREANS DENIED PAN AMERICAN'S APPLICATION TO MATCH NEW LOW FARES TO AND FROM THE U.S. AND KOREA ON THE GROUNDS THAT PAN AM HAS NO OPERATIONS IN KOREA AND HAS NOT FILED AN INTERLINE AGREEMENT. OUR OFFICE OF AVIATION CON-

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(RICHMOND)

10. VANNING IS BECOMING POPULAR (CONF)

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11. TRAVELERS AND ABSENTEES (UNCL)

WE REMAIN CRITICALLY SHORT OF PLAYERS IN EA/K. BOB RICHMOND ARRIVED BACK WEDNESDAY FROM TWO WEEKS IN KOREA, BUT FRED ASHLEY IS AWAY AND WE SEND OUR CONDOLENCES OVER THE SAD DEATH OF HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW. BILL BREER SHOULD BE BACK FROM ASIA ON OCTOBER 15. (RICH)

12. REPORTING KUDOS (CONF)

[REDACTED]

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OUR KUDOS THIS WEEK GO TO AN EXCELLENT UPDATE FROM THE EMBASSY (SEODI 12787) ON THE POLITICAL MOOD IN KWANGJU AND THE CHOLLA PROVINCES FOUR AND ONE-HALF MONTHS AFTER THE "KWANGJU UPRISING." (RICH) MUSKIE

[REDACTED]

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