

Classification: SECRET (NODIS)
Message #: 1980SEOUL10749 (Film #: P910003-1527)
Systematic Review Decision: RELEASED, APPROVED

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 ACTION NODS-00

RELEASE AUTHORITY: CAHILLA, SENIOR REVIEWER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RELEASE DECISION: RELEASE IN FULL DATE: April 12, 2006
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 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8518

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT - PARA THREE)

DEPT PASS TO TOKYO AND CINCPAC FOR GENERAL WICKHAM AS
 APPROPRIATE

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 8/20/00 (MONJO, JOHN C.) OR-M
 TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KS, US
 SUBJECT: MEETING WITH GENERAL CHUN

REF: (A) STATE 215404, (B) STATE 215358,
 - (C) STATE 216378

1. ~~(S)~~ ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN MEETING WITH GENERAL CHUN DOO HWAN (M-R: CHON TU-
 HWAN) EARLY AUGUST 20, I FIRST MADE POINTS IN PARA 3
 REF A, PLACING HEAVIEST EMPHASIS ON DISPELLING ANY MIS-
 CONCEPTIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE ARISEN FROM RECENT PRESS
 STORIES ABOUT USG POLICY. I THEN NOTED THAT WE WELCOMED
 THE ASSURANCES KCIA CHIEF SOHN GAVE DAS ARMACOST REGARD-
 ING THE INTENT TO SPARE KIM DAE JUNG'S (M-R: KIM TAE-
 CHUNG) LIFE, ADDING WE BELIEVE, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW
 OF INTERNATIONAL REACTION, THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF KIM
 WERE NOT GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE AT ALL. FINALLY I
 EXPLORED CHUN'S THINKING ABOUT THE TRANSITION, USING

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THE QUESTIONS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 REF C.

3. MAKING NO COMMENT ON THE FIRST PART OF MY PRESENTA-
 TION, CHUN JUMPED IMMEDIATELY ON THE KIM DAE JUNG QUES-
 TION. HE OPENED BY COMMENTING ACIDLY THAT HE HAD
 ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY "PROMISES" OR "ASSURANCES"
 GIVEN BY SOHN. CHUN THEN WENT ON TO STATE THAT OUR
 INTEREST--INDEED EVERYONE'S INTEREST--IN KIM'S HAVING
 A FAIR TRIAL WAS UNDERSTANDABLE AND APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER,
 APPEARING TO PREJUDGE A TRIAL WHICH HAS NOT YET ENDED WAS
 QUITE ANOTHER MATTER, ONE WHICH SMACKS OF A "KANGEROO
 COURT". WHEN CHUN FINISHED WHAT WAS A FAIRLY HEATED
 HARANGUE, I SAID THAT MY GOVERNMENT, TELY, WAS MAKING
 KNOWN ITS VIEWS ON A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO US. CHUN
 CONCLUDED THIS TOPIC BY SAYING HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE
 KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL AS MUCH AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

4. TURNING TO THE POLITICAL TRANSITION, CHUN FIRST NOTED

THAT HE WAS "IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION". HE SAID THAT HE HOPES THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE ONE WHICH DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AMENDED EACH TIME A NEW PRESIDENT IS CHOSEN. TURNING TO SPECIFICS, HE SAID HE EXPECTS THE DRAFT AMENDED CONSTITUTION TO BE FINISHED BY MID-SEPTEMBER. ALLOWING ONE MONTH FOR THE PEOPLE TO STUDY THE CONSTITUTION WOULD PLACE THE DATE OF THE REFERENDUM IN MID-OCTOBER, HOPEFULLY BY OCTOBER 20 AT THE LATEST.

5. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE CONSTITUTION, CHUN SAID, "AT LEAST SIX LAWS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, ASSEMBLY ELECTION, ETC." WOULD HAVE TO BE PASSED BEFORE ELECTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE. UNDER PARK CHUNG HEE THIS PROCESS HAD TAKEN SIX MONTHS. USING "MILITARY PRECISION" CHUN HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK IN FOUR, WITH PRESIDENTIAL ELEC-

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TIONS IN MARCH AND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN MAY. (IF WE HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN TEN MINUTES OVER THE SCHEDULED 30-MINUTE CALL, I WOULD HAVE ASKED WHETHER THE "SIX LAWS" WERE TO BE FASHIONED IN THE ASSEMBLY OR ELSEWHERE. INTERESTINGLY, ACTING SPEAKER MIN KWAN SHIK (M-R: MIN KWAN-SIK) PREDICTED AUGUST 19 THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD OPEN SEPTEMBER 20.)

6. CHUN SAID THAT MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE KEPT UNTIL IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THINGS WERE PEACEFUL FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITIES IN SEPTEMBER. AS THINGS NOW STAND, HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO END MARTIAL LAW IN DECEMBER. CHUN COMMENTED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO REMOVE MARTIAL LAW TOO SOON, SINCE THIS WOULD LEAD TO ITS REIMPOSITION, WHICH WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE SOCIETY.

7. FINALLY CHUN SAID THAT THE FUNCTIONS OF THEIAL COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES (SCNSM) AND ITS SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES WOULD GRADUALLY BE PHASED OUT AFTER THE NEW CABINET IS IN PLACE. THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WILL BE TOTALLY DISBANDED WHEN MARTIAL LAW HAS ENDED.

8. COMMENT: CHUN SEEMED COMFORTABLE AND AT EASE EXCEPT WHEN DISCUSSING KIM DAE JUNG, WHEN HE WAS VISIBLY EXERCISED. I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NOW DONE ABOUT ALL WE USEFULLY CAN AT THIS STAGE OF KIM'S TRIAL, AND SHOULD SAVE OUR AMMUNITION FOR WHEN A VERDICT IS REACHED. MONJO

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