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SECRET

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05-Jul-2000

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3

Case Number: 199502728

DAY'S PRESS BRIEFING SO THAT IT CAN BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS HERE. THE TEXT SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE ARE ALARMED BY THE CIVIL STRIFE IN KWANGJU.

-- WE URGE ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM RESTRAINT AND UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE IN SEARCH OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

--CONTINUED UNREST AND AN ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE WILL RISK DANGEROUS MISCALCULATION AND EXPLOITATION BY EXTERNAL FORCES.

-- WE REITERATE THAT THE USG WILL "REACT STRONGLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS TO ANY EXTERNAL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA."

4. BOTH THE KEY MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE BLUE HOUSE ARE NOT ONLY AGREEABLE TO A STATEMENT ALONG THESE LINES, BUT WOULD WELCOME IT. I HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT IT WOULD PUT US IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION IF IT WERE ISSUED ON THE EVE OF A MILITARY ATTEMPT TO RETAKE THE CITY, AND IN RESPONSE TO THIS THEY HAVE GIVEN US THE HIGH LEVEL ASSURANCE MENTIONED ABOVE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE IN MIND FORCEFUL ACTIONS FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT TWO DAYS AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE THE DIALOGUE WHICH HAS BEGUN BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND SOME KWANGJU CITIZENS. IF WE MAKE THE PROPOSED STATEMENT, THE ROKG WILL NOT ONLY PUBLISH IT, BUT WILL BUILD ON THE SAME THEMES IN A STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CHOI WILL MAKE TO THE KOREAN PUBLIC, PROBABLY TOMORROW.

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5. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THE CLINCHING ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF ISSUING THE STATEMENT IS THAT IT MAY HELP LOCK THE KOREAN MILITARY INTO HOLDING OFF FORCEFUL ACTION FOR A DECENT INTERVAL WHILE TALKS MAY BRING PEACE TO KWANGJU. OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T GUARANTEE THIS IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, BUT I WOULD PLAN TO TELEPHONE THE BLUE HOUSE TO CONFIRM THE UNDERSTANDING BEFORE HODDING MAKES HIS

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STATEMENT.

6. FURTHER, I WILL BE TELEPHONING YOU BY SECURE PHONE
BETWEEN 8:00 AND 8:30 A.M. YOUR TIME. GLEYSTEN

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