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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 12065:RDS-3 5/9/00 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREA FOCUS: MEETINGS WITH GENERAL CHUN AND
- BLUE HOUSE SYG CHOI

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TONIGHT TO RECORD MY LONG CONVERSATIONS TODAY. I WILL DO SO TOMORROW. THE SESSION WITH GENERAL CHUN DOO HWAN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) WENT QUITE WELL. I GOT MY POINTS ACROSS WITHOUT SOURING THE ATMOSPHERE OR ENGAGING IN ANY ARGUMENT WITH HIM. MOREOVER, IN A VERY LONG DISCUSSION OF THE STUDENT SECURITY SITUATION, I THINK HE PROBABLY FOUND MY ATTITUDE SYMPATHETIC. FROM WHAT CHUN TOLD ME, LATER CONFIRMED BY MY CONVERSATION WITH KWANG SOO CHOI (M-R: CH'OE KWANG-SU), I FEEL THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ADOPTED A SENSIBLE, PRUDENT APPROACH TO THE STUDENT PROBLEM. THEY HAVE GIVEN IT A GOOD DEAL OF THOUGHT AND THEY ARE VERY AWARE OF THE DANGER OF OVER REACTION AND USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

3. MY SESSION WITH CHOI TURNED OUT TO BE A LONG EXPOSITION OF HOW THE BLUE HOUSE SEES THE SITUATION AND PLANS TO PROCEED. IN SHORT, THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL SCHEDULE, CAUTION REGARDING HANDLING OF THE STUDENT AND

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LABOR SITUATIONS, AND A GOOD DEAL OF MOROSENESSE BROUGHT ON BY THE STUDENT CHALLENGE AND THE UNHELPFUL POSTURE OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 01 AUG 2006 200404897

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4. A BY-PRODUCT OF BOTH CONVERSATIONS IS THAT I HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO CAUTION KIM YOUNG SAM (M-R: KIM YONG-SAM) AND KIM DAE JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) ABOUT THE RISKS THEY ARE RUNNING OF THEY FAN THE FLAMES. I HAVE ALREADY ASKED TO SEE BOTH OF THEM EARLY NEXT WEEK. GLEYSTEN

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