

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSTATE 138557

ADP492

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SS0-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OCS-06
CA-01 SY-05 SYE-00 OPR-02 PC-01 /102 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K: RGRICH
APPROVED BY EA/K: RGRICH
S/S-O: SBUCHER

-----026027 251618Z /54

O P 251555Z MAY 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII IMMEDIATE 7789
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

STATE 138557

GENEVA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 12665: EDS-1 AND 3, 5/25/90 (ARMACOST, MICHAEL)

TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CASC, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREA MONITORING GROUP SITUATION REPORT NO. 7

1. (U) FOLLOWING IS A SITUATION REPORT ON KOREA PREPARED
IN THE DEPARTMENT AS OF 0900 EDT MAY 25 (251300ZMAY):

2. (C) THE SITUATION IN KWANGJU HAS TAKEN A RATHER GRIM
TURN. THE MODERATE CITIZENS COMMITTEE HAS LOST CONTROL OF
THE SITUATION AND THE RADICALS APPEAR TO BE IN CHARGE.
PEOPLES COURTS HAVE BEEN SET UP AND SOME EXECUTIONS HAVE
TAKEN PLACE. STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BEEN LARGELY

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REPLACED BY UNIDENTIFIED ARMED RADICALS WHO ARE TALKING
OF SETTING UP A REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.
3. (S) ARMY STRONGMAN GENERAL CHUN DOO HWAN (M-R: CHON
TU-HWAN) IS REPORTED TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT HE HAS BEEN
DECEIVED BY THE RADICALS WITHIN KWANGJU AND THAT MILITARY
ACTION WILL NOW BE REQUIRED. AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN REPORTS
THAT A DELEGATION OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL GO
TO KWANGJU MONDAY MORNING TO MAKE ONE LAST TRY TO RESOLVE
THE SITUATION, BUT IF THEY FAIL THEN MILITARY ACTION TO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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IS/FPC/CDR

TRCB

Date.

9/13/93

☒ RELEASE ☒ DECLASSIFY
☐ EXCISE ☐ DECLASSIFY
☐ DENY IN PART
☐ DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:

EO Citations

TS authority to.

☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐ C OADR
☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐ C OADR

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REGAIN CONTROL OF THE CITY WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE WITHIN 24-36 HOURS. THE ROK CHAIRMAN OF THE JCS HAS PROMISED TO INFORM US BEFORE THE MOVE TAKES PLACE.

4. (C) AMERICAN CITIZENS -- THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOW PIOUSLY REQUESTED THAT ALL FOREIGNERS LEAVE KWANGJU FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. AMERICAN EMBASSY AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN KOREA HAVE FORMED A TASK FORCE, WHICH IS WORKING LATE SUNDAY NIGHT ON THIS PROBLEM. INITIAL CONCLUSIONS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO EXTRACT THE REMAINING AMERICANS SAFELY AND THAT THERE IS SOMEWHAT GREATER SAFETY IN THEIR LYING LOW IN PLACE. THOSE REMAINING (25-30 PERSONS, INCLUDING FIVE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, MISSIONARIES AND ACADEMICS) HAD UNWISELY DISREGARDED STRONG WARNINGS FROM THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR URGING THEM REPEATEDLY TO LEAVE KWANGJU IN THE LAST FEW DAYS WHEN THIS WAS FEASIBLE TO DO. THE FIVE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS DEFIED A DIRECT ORDER TO LEAVE. ONCE OUT OF KWANGJU, THEY WILL BE SENT HOME.

5. (S) REPORTS FROM KWANGJU SAY THAT GOVERNMENT RADIO BROADCASTS TO THE CITY ARE SAYING NOT ONLY THAT THE U.S. HAS RELEASED FORCES FOR USE IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER, BUT THAT WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE USE OF TROOPS

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IN THIS ROLE. GENERAL WICKHAM HAS PROTESTED IN STRONG TERMS TO THE MARTIAL LAW COMMAND AND WILL MAKE A PUBLIC DENIAL IF THE REPORTS ARE NOT CORRECTED.

6. (S) KOREAN MILITARY PLANNING FOR HOW TO DEAL WITH THE RADICAL TURN OF EVENTS IN KWANGJU IS STILL UNDERWAY, AND WE HAVE URGED THE MOST CAREFUL AND RESTRAINED USE OF FORCE IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE INNOCENT CASUALTIES. AN OMINOUS DANGER IN THE SITUATION IS POSED BY THE FACT THAT THE TWO THOUSAND PLUS WEAPONS COLLECTED PEACEFULLY EARLIER FROM DEMONSTRATORS BY THE KWANGJU CITIZENS COMMITTEE ARE STILL WITHIN THE CITY. IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MOVE THE COLLECTED WEAPONS PAST THE BARRICADES MANNED BY THE RADICALS AND INTO THE HANDS OF THE MILITARY FORCES. THUS THE BULK OF THE RECOVERED WEAPONS ARE VULNERABLE TO BEING SEIZED BY THE RADICALS APPARENTLY SET UPON REVOLUTION. THE NUMBER OF RADICALS INVOLVED IS NOT CLEARLY KNOWN, BUT THERE ARE REPORTS OF ABOUT 50 HARD CORE PLUS ABOUT 500 WILLING FOLLOWERS.

7. (C) OUR BRANCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, WHO HAS NOW ARRIVED IN SEOUL, BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM CATHOLIC BISHOP YUN, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE IN KWANGJU, STRESSING THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT APOLOGIZE FOR THE BRUTALITY DISPLAYED BY

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SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS IN QUELLING THE INITIAL DEMONSTRATION
ON MAY 18-19. THE BISHOP BELIEVES THIS TRIGGERED THE WIDER

PROBLEM AND ENABLED THE RADICALS TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE.
WE HAVE PASSED THIS MESSAGE ON THROUGH CARDINAL KIM.

8. (U) THE KOREA MONITORING GROUP WILL COVER THE
EVOLVING SITUATION FROM THE OPERATIONS CENTER THROUGHOUT
SUNDAY NIGHT (WASHINGTON TIME). PHONE: 632-7780. AT
OTHER TIMES RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS MAY BE REACHED EITHER
[REDACTED]

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AT THE OFFICE OF KOREAN AFFAIRS (632-7717) OR THROUGH
THE OPERATIONS CENTER WATCH (632-1512). MUSKIE
[REDACTED]

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