

21880

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS, FPC/CDR TRB 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

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 009238

ADP261  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09238 200636Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 PA-01  
PC-01 /036 W

-----048123 200800Z /23

R 190328Z JUL 80  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7834

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 09238

DEPT PASS. PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON FOR HUSTON

E.O. 12065: GDS 07/19/86 (MONJO, JOHN C.) DR-M  
TAGS: PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: AFP INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PEACE CORPS  
VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL KAE CHUL LEE (M-R: YI KAE-CH'OL) RAISED WITH POLCOUNS A 7/15 AFP STORY OUT OF STOCKHOLM IN WHICH TWO ALLEGED FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA DESCRIBED THE RECENT UPRISING IN KWANGJU IN HIGHLY EXAGGERATED TERMS, CLAIMING INTER ALIA 2,000 DEATHS. LEE SAID THE ROKG IS VERY DISTURBED BY THIS REPORT, AND ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY CONFIRM WHETHER THE INDIVIDUALS IN QUESTION ACTUALLY HAD WORKED AS PCV'S IN KOREA. LEE ASKED FURTHER THAT THE USG CONSIDER CONTACTING AFP TO SET THE KWANGJU RECORD STRAIGHT.

3. WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED FROM PEACE CORPS - KOREA THAT TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH VERY SIMILAR NAMES TO THOSE USED IN THE AFP ARTICLE DID IN FACT WORK IN KOREA AS VOLUNTEERS, DEPARTING ON JUNE 13, 1980. POLCOUNS  
CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09238 200636Z

THEREFORE TELEPHONED LEE TO INFORM HIM THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN, IT APPEARED LIKELY THAT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN VOLUNTEERS IN KOREA, BUT THAT AS U.S. CITIZENS THEY WERE FREE TO SAY WHAT THEY WISHED AFTER THEIR TERMINATION. WE DECLINED ANY ATTEMPT TO SET THE STORY STRAIGHT WITH THE PRESS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT TO DO SO WOULD ONLY ATTRACT FURTHER UNWANTED ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE. MONJO

7-19-80

Monjo wants to avoid attracting further attn to Kwangju

119

