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OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INFO OCT-80 ADS-80 /000 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:W T BREER:AG
 APPROVED BY D - MR. CHRISTOPHER
 EA/K:R G RICH
 EA:W H ARMACOST
 DOD/ISA:D JONES
 S/SSO:SSTAPLETON

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Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
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Reviewed by: *ek* Elijah Kelly Jr.
 Date: 4-28-93 19__

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 TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 12865: ROS-1 8/14/80 (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN THE PRESIDENCY

REF: A) SEOUL 185047 B) SEOUL 18468

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. YOUR EXCELLENT ANALYSIS REPTTEL FORMED THE BACKGROUND FOR A LENGTHY INTERAGENCY MEETING THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION. FOLLOWING ARE OUR CONCLUSIONS:

--AS YOU POINTED OUT, AN IMMINENT BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY BY GENERAL CHUN APPEARS IRREVERSIBLE;

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--WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, DISPEL ANY SUSPICIONS THAT WE HAVE BEEN BACKING A CHUN PRESIDENCY (IN THAT REGARD, GENERAL WICKHAM'S RETURN TO KOREA WILL BE DELAYED; BUT WE WILL MAKE NO PUBLIC LINKAGE).

--WE SHOULD UNDERScore OUR HOPE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE LIBERAL REGIME IN THE FUTURE; AND OUR EXPECTATION THAT THE TIMETABLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND ELECTIONS WILL REMAIN ON TRACK.

3. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY GENERAL CHOI OR THE FOREIGN MINISTER "CONSULT" WITH YOU AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B EMPHASIZING THAT YOU ARE SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THE SECRETARY. YOU SHOULD, OF COURSE, DRAW ON THIS LANGUAGE ON OTHER APPROPRIATE OCCASION

--THE KOREAN LEADERSHIP SHOULD NOT MISCONSTRUE THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED LAST WEEK TO GENERAL WICKHAM AS IMPLYING US GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OR SUPPORT FOR GENERAL CHUN, AND WE STRONGLY PROTEST THE MANIPULATION BY THE KOREAN PRESS OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GENERAL WICKHAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUGGESTING SUCH SUPPORT.

--AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY INDICATED TO GENERAL CHUN AND OTHERS, THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND NOT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE THE ARBITERS OF KOREAN POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

--OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL DEPEND UPON A VARIETY OF CONSIDERATIONS, INCLUDING ADHERENCE TO THE TIMETABLE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, RELAXATION OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES, AND THE AVOIDANCE OF ACTIONS WHICH

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GENERATE INSTABILITY.

--WE INTEND IN ANY FUTURE PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THE FOREGOING CLEAR TO AMERICANS AND TO OTHERS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN KOREA.

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH GENERAL CHUN AND DRAW UPON THE GUIDANCE ABOVE--PARTICULARLY THE FIRST POINT--TO DISPEL ANY MISCONCEPTIONS ARISING FROM RECENT PRESS STORIES ABOUT USG POLICY.

5. WE DISCUSSED THE DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING THE ALERT STATUS OF OUR FORCES AND REJECTED AUTOMATIC REACTION AS PROVOCATIVE AND UNNECESSARY.

6. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT KOREAN PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF THE US WITH GENERAL CHUN'S ACTIONS, YOU SHOULD ASSURE THAT EMBASSY AND SUBORDINATE MISSIONS IN KOREA STEP UP THEIR SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INCIDENTS WHICH MAY BE DIRECTED AGAINST THEM OR AMERICAN AND KOREAN PERSONNEL.

7. FURTHER GUIDANCE COMING. CHRISTOPHER

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