

E144

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79SEOUL 019268

ADP226

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /O28 W
-----096902 270245Z /15

O 270236Z DEC 79
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3239

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FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, US
SUBJECT: CINC CFC MEMO CONCERNING OPERATIONAL CONTROL
 OF FORCES

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A BACK CHANNEL MESSAGE SENT
BY GENERAL WICKHAM DECEMBER 19:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: A. MY 180657Z DEC 79, SUBJ: MEETING
WITH MND CHOO ON 17 DECEMBER.

3. MEMO REFERRED TO IN PARA 4, REF A, IS A ROK/U.S.
COMBINED FORCES COMMAND LETTER, DATED 17 DEC 79, AND IS
QUOTED FOR YOUR INFO:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

AS YOU KNOW, STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ONE TO CINC CFC FROM
THE ROK/U.S. MILITARY COMMITTEE IN PLENARY SESSION AT
SAN DIEGO PROVIDED FOR THE ACTIVATION OF CFC AND CINC
CFC OPERATIONAL MISSIONS. AMONG THESE ARE MISSIONS TO
DETER HOSTILE ACTS OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AGAINST THE
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ROK AND IN THE EVENT DETERRENCE FAILS, TO DEFEAT AN
EXTERNAL ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE REPUBLIC. TO ACCOM-
PLISH THESE MISSIONS, THE DIRECTIVE STATES THAT CINC
CFC WILL EXERCISE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF ASSIGNED ROK
AND U.S. FORCES.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT DURING THE NIGHT OF 12/13
DECEMBER 1979 SEVERAL UNITS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL
OF CINC CFC, INCLUDING UNITS FROM THE 2D ROK ARMORED

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BRIGADE AND 9TH ROK INFANTRY DIVISION WERE MOVED FROM NORMAL DEFCON 4 LOCATIONS TO THE VICINITY OF SEOUL WITHOUT NOTIFICATION TO CFC OR REQUEST FOR RELEASE FROM OPCON OF CFC. THIS ACTION RAISES SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE EXERCISE OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL BY CINC CFC OVER ALL FORCES ASSIGNED OR ATTACHED TO THE COMMAND IN THE PROSECUTION OF ASSIGNED MIS.

I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN ON THIS MATTER TO YOUR PREDECESSOR ON 13 DECEMBER. ACCORDINGLY, I HEREBY RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR THIS APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT AND LEGAL INTENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ONE. YOUR RESPONSE WILL BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSALS CONCERNING OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF FORCES THAT I PLAN TO SUBMIT TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

MOST SINCERELY, JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR., GENERAL, USA,
COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

THE HONORABLE CHO YOUNG BOCK, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE,
SEOUL, KOREA.

END TEXT.

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4. WILL SUBMIT PROPOSED MEMO FOR CJCS TO SEND TO MILITARY COMMITTEE CONCERNING OPCON ISSUE. END QUOTE. GLEYSTEN

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