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NIGHT ACTION REQUIRED

SUBJ: THIS IS (U)

"THIS IS N INFO REPT. NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL"

1. (U) COUNTRY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)

PAGE 1

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36146

PAGE 2

2. (U) REPORT NUMBER: [REDACTED]
3. (U) TITLE: DEATH OF ((PARK)) CHUNG HEE, PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
4. (U) PROJECT NUMBER: NA
5. (U) DATE OF INFORMATION: 791027
6. (U) DATE OF REPORT: 791027

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16. SUMMARY: IR FORWARDS AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING DEATH OF SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK. INFO FROM LOCAL MEDIA, US OFFICIAL, AND ROK OFFICIAL INFORMATION.

A. [REDACTED] AT ABOUT 1930 HOURS (LOCAL), 26 OCT 79, PRESIDENT PARK, WHILE ATTENDING A DINNER AT A LOCATION ADJACENT TO THE BLUE HOUSE WAS SHOT AND KILLED ALONG WITH HIS BODYGUARDS. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA REPORTED THAT MR. ((KIM)) JAE KYU, DIRECTOR, KCIA, HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE ALLEGED PERSON RESPONSIBLE.

B. [REDACTED] THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW WITH THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF BEING PLACED IN COMMAND AS MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR. MILITARY SECURITY HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN SEOUL, AND ARMORED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN POSITIONED AROUND THE GENERAL AREA OF THE BLUE HOUSE. KOREAN SPECIAL FORCES ELEMENTS HAVE TAKEN OVER SECURITY AT MND AND ACCESS HAS BEEN RESTRICTED, BUT OTHERWISE, MND APPEARS QUIET. TWO ELEMENTS OF THE KOREAN SPECIAL FORCES PLACED ON DUTY IN PUSAN, KS, DUE TO PAST DISTURBANCES THERE, HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO SEOUL FOR SECURITY PURPOSES. EVEN UNDER THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW, THE CITY STREETS IN SEOUL APPEAR TO HAVE THE NORMAL SATURDAY MORNING TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE

PAGE 2

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

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PAGE 3

36146

POINTED OUT THAT THE NEWS HAS BEEN BROADCASTING ON KOREAN RADIO FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS AND PUBLIC REACTION IS NOT READILY APPARENT AT THIS TIME.

- C. [REDACTED] COMUS KOREA HAS ORDERED FORCES INTO "DEFENSE CONDITION 3" AS OF 262046Z OCT 79.

- D. (U) TRANSITION OF POWER IS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, ((CHOI)) KYU HA. HOWEVER, KOREAN LAW REQUIRES THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UNIFICATION (NOW NUMBERING ABOUT 3,000 PERSONS OF WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER IS MEMBER) TO ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT WITHIN 90 DAYS.

- E. [REDACTED] THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN EDUCATOR (FORMER COLLEGE PROFESSOR) WITHOUT ANY MAJOR MILITARY BACKGROUND, AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS CONFUCIAN IN THOUGHT AND MANNER - NOT WESTERNIZED.

- F. (U) AT 1000 HOURS (LOCAL), 27 OCT 79, THE CHIEFS OF STAFF, KOREAN ARMED FORCES, EXPRESSED THEIR CONDOLENCES TO THE PARK FAMILY AND STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT/PRIME MINISTER AND ASKED THE PUBLIC TO WORK WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE INSTITUTED MARTIAL LAW.

[REDACTED] WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESS IN THE US HAS BEEN COVERING THIS AS A COUP ATTEMPT. HOWEVER, THE KILLING HAS GONE WITHOUT THE APPARENT STRUGGLE FOR POWER WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED WITH A COUP. NO JUDGEMENT CAN BE MADE IN LIGHT OF PRESENTLY KNOWN FACTS.

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PAGE 3

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