

(E1829)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date 9/13/93

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80STATE 173290

ADP476
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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:W T BREER:JCM
APPROVED BY EA:M H ARMACOST
EA/K:R G RICH
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
H:J CUNNINGHAM (INFO)

-----037806 011008Z /21

P 010848Z JUL 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173290

E.O. 12065 GDS 6/30/86 (ARMACOST, MICHAEL H.)

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PROTESTS ROK REFUSAL TO ACCEPT
CONGRESSIONAL LETTER

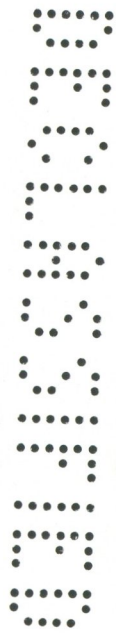
REF: SEUL 8303

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR KIM (WHO IS HOLDING A MEETING OF CONSULS GENERAL IN CALIFORNIA), ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMACOST CALLED IN THE ROK EMBASSY DCM, MINISTER OH JAE HUI, JUNE 30 TO EXPRESS USG DISPLEASURE AT THE ROKG REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A LETTER SIGNED BY 32 U.S. CONGRESSMEN. ARMACOST SAID THAT WE WERE PUZZLED BY THE REFUSAL AND FOUND IT UNACCEPTABLE; KOREANS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CONGRESS WAS COEQUAL WITH
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EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND THAT KOREA RAN RISK OF OFFENDING OTHER CONGRESSMEN WHO WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD KOREA AND WHOSE SUPPORT WE COUNTED UPON. ARMACOST CALLED UPON OH TO ACCEPT LETTER. OH RESPONDED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN TOLD THERE WAS SUCH A LETTER, HE DID NOT KNOW THAT MOFA WOULD REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT AND ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN SOME EXPLANATION. ARMACOST QUOTED MOFA REASONING FROM REFTEL AND, AFTER BEING ASSURED THAT DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS WAS NORMAL PRACTICE OF



STATE DEPARTMENT, OH SAID HE WOULD CONVEY U.S. CONCERNS TO SEOUL AND SEEK AN EXPLANATION. HE PROMISED TO BE IN TOUCH WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

3. COMMENT. OH WAS EXCEEDINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE DURING INTERVIEW. IN VIEW OF THE UNHEALTHY PRECEDENT WE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE A STIFF PROTEST. MUSKIE

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSD-00 /O13 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7689
INFO SA CINCUNC KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SEUL 08917

"ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY, THESE ECONOMIC ILLS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN EXACERBATED SOMEWHAT BY RECENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. EXPORT GROWTH WAS NEGATIVE IN REAL TERMS LAST YEAR AND IS WELL BELOW ITS RECENT HISTORICAL TREND THIS YEAR. INVESTMENTS HAVE FALLEN SHARPLY, AND BOTH SECTORS ARE SUBJECT TO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF POLITICAL DISTURBANCES. BEYOND THAT, WE ASSUME THAT DISRUPTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE ECONOMY BECAUSE OF DECREASED EFFICIENCY IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS CAUSED BY HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES AND CIVIL DISORDERS. LATEST INDICATORS POINT TO CONTINUING SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMY, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DEFINITE SIGNS INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ARE ABATING. IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE ECONOMY REGAINS ITS PREVIOUS MOMENTUM; TO A LARGE EXTENT THESE WILL DEPEND ON THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SITUATION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OPEN TRADING SYSTEM AS WELL AS A STABILIZATION OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESS. BARRING WIDESPREAD CIVIL DISORDER, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS REMAIN GOOD."

6. WITH REGARD TO ANSWER 9, COMUSKOREA OFFERS A CHANGE TO MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBE THE RESERVE ROLES OF THE MARINE AND 20TH DIVISION UNITS. THE LAST SENTENCE SHOULD BE REPLACED BY THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE: THE MARINE ELEMENTS
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ARE PART OF THE RESERVE FORCES OF THE COMBINED COMMAND,
AND THE 20TH DIVISION SERVES AS A RESERVE OF A FORWARD
ARMY " GLEYSTEN

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