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INFO RUAGOTC/COR501MIGP SEOUL KS IMMEDIATE
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

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SECTION 01 OF 02

FOR: DI-1A/CCF, DC-4, DC-4A, JSI-3C, NB-20, DR-2C1.

SUBJ: IR

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)
2. (U) TITLE: EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW (U)
3. (U) DTD OF INFO: 800517

AND VARIOUS SOURCES.

46

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PAGE 2

60468

7. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT TRANSMITS
INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF MARTIAL LAW IN ROK.

8A. (U) DETAILS:

-1. STUDENT PROTESTS TO FORCE THE ROKG TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW (ML) HAVE HAD JUST THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. AT 2130 HOURS, THE NIGHT OF 17 MAY 1980, THE ROKG CALLED AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE CABINET, CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH ENDORSED THE PLAN FOR TOTAL ML. IN EFFECT ML WAS EXTENDED TO CHEJU-DO ISLAND MAKING ML EFFECTIVE IN ALL PARTS OF THE ROK. DECREE NUMBER 10 WAS ENACTED AS REPORTED IN IR. UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WERE CLOSED. EIGHTEEN STUDENT LEADERS WERE REPORTED ARRESTED. LABOR ACTIVIST RECEIVED STERN WARNINGS THAT STRIKES OF ANY KIND WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. PUBLIC STATEMENTS REFLECTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIEWS WERE BANNED. THIS LATTER EDICT WAS NO DOUBT DIRECTED AT INCREASED PRESSURE FROM THE KEY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST THE MILITARY'S AND THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AS MUCH AS AT THE STUDENTS AND OTHER ACTIVIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THE ROK SOCIETY. THIS INSTITUTION OF TOTAL ML IS PATTERNED AFTER PRESIDENT PARK'S INITIATION OF ML IN THE EARLY 70'S TO COOL PROTESTS, PARTICULARLY STUDENT PROTESTS AGAINST HIS YUSHIN GOVERNMENT. THEN TOTAL ML HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. THE SITUATION WAS COOLED. NOW AS THEN THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES, HOWEVER THERE ARE ALSO SOME KEY DISSIMILARITIES. STUDENTS NOW ARE BETTER ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY; THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IS AT AN EXTREME LOW WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AT HIGH LEVELS, AND PAY LAGGING WELL BEHIND COST OF LIVING FACTORS. BOTH OF THE KEY POLITICAL PARTIES ARE VOICING STRONG CRITICISM TOWARD THE MILITARY AND THE CHOI INTERIM GOVERNMENT. TWO OF THE THREE LEADING POLITICAL CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN REPORTED ARRESTED IN THE WAKE OF TOTAL ML. AS TO WHY IS NOT YET CLEAR. THE PRESIDENT, (CHOI), HAS NOT YET MADE A PERSONAL STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF ML. IT IS TOO EARLY TO GET A CLEAR READING ON PUBLIC REACTION TO THE NEW ML EDICT. BASED ON EARLIER CONTACTS WITH STUDENT AND FACULTY SOURCES, THE CLOSING OF THE UNIVERSITY WAS A GOAL OF THE STUDENTS IN ORDER TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION TO

PAGE 2

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60468

PAGE 3

THEIR CAU. IF STUDENT PLANS HAVE NOT CHANGED, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE NEW DECREE MAY START BY EARLY EVENING, 18 MAY.

ALSO WITH STUDENT LEADERSHIP UNDER ARREST, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY FACULTY MEMBERS WILL OPENLY JOIN IN THE PROTESTS WITH THEIR STUDENTS.

-2. [REDACTED] AFTER THREE DAYS OF STREET DEMONSTRATIONS 13-15 MAY, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP WAS EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED BY THE LACK OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THEIR MOVEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S MODERATE STANCE HAD SUCCEEDED IN, AT A MINIMUM, HOLDING PUBLIC OPINION AT A STANDSTILL AND PROBABLY HAD GARNERED SOME MODEST ADDED SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. NOW WITH TOTAL ML, THE MILITARY COMMITTED TO KEY LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND THE BULK OF THE SF POISED TO MEET ANY PUBLIC VIOLATIONS OF DECREE NUMBER 10, THE CHANCES THAT THE NEXT RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MODERATE IS VERY SLIGHT. HOW THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL REACT TO MILITARY/STUDENT CONFRONTATIONS SHOULD THEY OCCUR IS STILL ANYONE'S GUESS. AN OVER-REACTION BY THE MILITARY COULD SWING PUBLIC SENTIMENT TO THE STUDENTS. CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS REFLECTED A UNWAVERING CONVICTION THAT A STRONG HAND WAS NEEDED RATHER THAN THE MODERATE RESPONSE SHOWN 13-15 MAY. HOWEVER SHOULD MILITARY/STUDENT CLASHES RESULT IN BLOODSHED, HOW THIS WILL LIKELY PLACE PRESSURE ON THE CURRENT MILITARY RULING CLIQUE IS ANOTHER POINT FOR CONJECTURE.

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PAGE 3

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SECT 02 OF 60381

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RUFATIA/CIA WASHDC//DDI-INT-RQ IMMEDIATE
INFO RUHAGOTC/COR501MIGP SEOUL KS IMMEDIATE
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SECTION 02 OF 02

-3. [REDACTED] CONSISTENTLY, CHON, TU HWAN HAS BEEN THE
PRIMARY TARGET FOR STUDENT DISSENT. ALTHOUGH NOT AS OPEN
AS THE STUDENT DISSENTERS THE CHIEF POLITICAL LEADERS,
TWO OF WHOM ARE NOW UNDER ARREST, HAVE ALSO SOUGHT WAYS TO
REDUCE HIS POWER. HE UNDOUBTEDLY IS AWARE OF THESE
EFFORTS. NOW WHETHER EXTENDED ML GIVES CHON A MORE
SECURE BASE OR INSTEAD TENDS TO POLARIZE EVEN A LARGER
CONTINGENT OF ROK SOCIETY IN DISSENT AGAINST HIS ROLE IS
STILL VAGUE. FOR THOSE WHO FEAR A ROK MILITARY TAKE OVER,
ONE MUST CONCLUDED THAT THE ENACTMENT OF FULL ML IS ANOTHER

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AGE 2

TEP WHICH BRINGS CHON AND HIS ASSOCIATES A STEP CLOSER
O FULL CONTROL.

B. [REDACTED] THIS INFORMATION GENERALLY CONFIRMS AND
EXPANDS ON INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED.

1. (U) PROJECT NO: N/A
 2. (U) COLL MGT CODES: NONE
 1. (U) SPEC INST: NONE. DIRC: NO.
 2. (U) PREP BY: [REDACTED]
 3. (U) APP BY: [REDACTED]
 4. (U) REQ EVAL: NO.
 5. (U) ENCL: N/A
 6. (U) DIST BY ORIG: NONE
- [REDACTED]

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PAGE 2

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