



Department of State **OUTGOING TELEGRAM**

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*Holbrooke tells Klumb
US "will not contest
publicly" ROKG B1 A3
version of 12/12
incident*

5. ASSISTANT SEC HOLBROOKE SAID HE FOUND THE ROKG MESSAGE REASSURING AND HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT THE COMMITMENT TO BROADLY BASED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. HE ASSURED AMB KIM THAT THE USG WOULD NOT PUBLICLY CONTEST THE ROKG VERSION OF RECENT EVENTS, BUT HE WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE FURTHER MILITARY CHANGES OF COMMAND "KOREA STYLE."

6. WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE USG AND MANY OTHER OBSERVERS WILL LISTEN TO PRESIDENT CHUI'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS DEC 21 WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST AT THIS TIME AND BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PRESIDENT SET FORTH HIS POLITICAL TIMETABLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

7. THE ROK CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE STAND BESIDE KOREA AS FIRM ALLIES, BUT EFFORTS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO RESTORE ROK MILITARY UNITY AND TO RESTORE THE NECESSARY MUTUAL TRUST BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROK ARMED FORCES. THIS MUTUAL TRUST HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY THE DIRECT ACTION OF SOME GENERALS LAST WEEK.

8. SEC HOLBROOKE INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT, DESPITE THE PRESSURES OF THE IRANIAN CRISIS, THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN

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FOLLOWING THE KOREAN SITUATION VERY CLOSELY, THE PRESIDENT IS ANXIOUS THAT THE COMBINED ROK-AS COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS REMAIN INVIOLEATE. THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY BOTH ARE CONCERNED THAT THERE BE NO OVERTHROW OF CIVILIAN RULE IN KOREA AND THAT ORDERLY PROGRESS TOWARD BROADLY BASED POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT CONTINUE. IF THE INTEGRITY OF THE ROK MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE SHOULD BECOME BADLY BREACHED, THIS WOULD OFFER A DANGEROUS OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTH KOREAN INTERVENTION. HOLBROOKE INFORMED KIM THAT WE HAVE GONE TO BOTH THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN THAT NORTH KOREA NOT TRY TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION IN THE ROK AND THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN WILL TAKE UP KOREA WITH PRC LEADERS AGAIN ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO BEIJING.

9. AMBASSADOR KIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE VIEWS, WHICH HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY IMMEDIATELY TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

10. COMMENTS IN CONVEYING THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT OF HIS OFFICIAL MESSAGE (PARA 2 ABOVE), AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THAT

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