



Department of State
TELEGRAM

9/13/93
E1668

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W
0231010Z MAY 80
008683 231049Z /16-11

FM ANEMBASSY SEUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6547
INFO ANEMBASSY TOKYO

SA CINCUNC KS
CHUSHAG SEUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEUL KS//BJ-IS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEUL 06609

EXDIS

E.O. 12065: GDS 05/23/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P

TAGS: ASEC PINS KS
SUBJECT: KOREA SITREP, 1530, MAY 23, 1980

REF: SEUL 6432

EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed:
transferred to O/FAD/RC
with additional access
controlled by S/S
retained by S/███

Cat. B - Transferred to O/FAD/RC
with additional access
controlled by S/S

Cat. C - Caption and custody
retained by S/███

Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.
Date: 4-28-93 19__

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SITUATION IN KWANGJU SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING SLOWLY. A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IS HOLDING TALKS WITH THE AUTHORITIES, AS IS A STUDENTS' GROUP. MAIN CONCERN IN THE CITY SEEMS TO BE FEAR OF ARMY REPRISALS. WHAT ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ARE UNKNOWN BUT SEEM TO BE ENOUGH TO PERSUADE SOME CITIZENS TO DISARM THEMSELVES. ACCORDING TO ACTING PRIME MINISTER PARK, AS OF LATE MORNING MAY 23, 2,000 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 4,000 RIFLES AND "MOST" OF THE FOUR BOXES OF TNT THAT RIOTERS HAD CAPTURED, HAD BEEN TURNED IN. AIR-CRAFT OVERFLYING KWANGJU WERE NO LONGER DRAWING FIRE. CITY WORKERS ARE BACK ON THE JOB, STUDENTS ARE CLEANING THE STREETS. "MANY" STOLEN VEHICLES HAVE BEEN RETURNED, ETC.

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3. IN ADDITION TO REPEATING WHAT ACTING PRIME MINISTER

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SAID, JCS CHIEF GENERAL LEW SAID THAT THE ARMY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO RE-ENTER KWANGJU WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. THE POLICE ARE OVERTAXED TRYING TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND PREVENT LOOTING, AND THE PEOPLE WANT THE ARMY BACK. THE ARMY WILL RETURN ONLY AT THE INVITATION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ONLY IN SMALL NUMBERS, AND ONLY AFTER ANNOUNCING THEIR INTENTIONS WELL IN ADVANCE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS NO NEGATIVE REACTION. LEW ALSO DESCRIBED AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH A BUS CARRYING SEVENTEEN PEOPLE, SOME OF WHOM HAD DYNAMITE WITH THEM, BLEW UP KILLING THE ENTIRE GROUP.

4. LEW SAID THAT MAJOR GENERAL SO CHUN YOL HAD BEEN PICKED AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ROK ARMY TRAINING COMMAND TO SUCCEED LT. GENERAL YUN HUNG CHONG, THE NEW COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER, BECAUSE HE IS A RESPECTED KWANGJU MAN. SO WILL BE PROMOTED TO LT. GENERAL IN A FEW DAYS.

5. REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES ELSEWHERE CONTINUE TO BE CONFINED TO CHOLLA NAMDO PROVINCE, AND MINOR COMPARED WITH KWANGJU.

6. BPAO KWANGJU: BPAO DAVID MILLER IS IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH USAF PERSONNEL AT KWANGJU AFB, WHO REPORT THAT MILLER IS SAFE. HE IS STAYING IN OR NEAR THE CITY'S PRESBYTERIAN COMPOUND.

7. INFORMATION/NEWS: AUTHORITIES' NEWS MANAGEMENT IN THIS INCIDENT HAS BEEN ERRATIC. FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS THE^ ALLOWED ALMOST NO MENTION OF EVENTS IN KWANGJU, THEN ON MAY 21 BROADCAST A BRIEF BUT CANDID ACCOUNT WHICH ENDED WITH "A SUMMARY OF GROUNDLESS WILD RUMORS." CONFIDENTIAL
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FIFTEEN "RUMORS" FOLLOWED, ATROCITY TALES WHICH, PRESUM- ABLY, THEN FLOURISHED ALL THE MORE. SEOUL PAPERS, HANDICAPPED BY A 'REPORTERS' STRIKE PLUS CENSORSHIP, CARRIED ALMOST NOTHING UNTIL, LATE MAY 22, CENSORSHIP ON KWANGJU WAS SUDDENLY RELAXED. MANY REPORTERS CAME BACK TO WORK, AND DONG-A ILBO PUT OUT A SPECIAL EDITION WITH A FULL PAGE OF KWANGJU NEWS. THE TV NEWS EVENING OF MAY 22 WAS DEVOTED MOSTLY TO KWANGJU, EMPHASIZING DESTRUCTION AND VIOLENCE. AS OF EARLY MORNING MAY 23, STRICT CENSOR- SHIP IS REPORTEDLY BACK IN EFFECT.

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8. NEW ACTING PRIME MINISTER PAK CHUNG-HUN (M-R) ADDRESSED THE NATION 7:00 P.M. MAY 22. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO RESTORE ORDER AND TO MINIMIZE ECONOMIC DAMAGE. HE ALSO STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH THE POLITICAL PROGRAM OUTLINED BY PRESIDENT CHOI. KOREANS WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH PAK'S FOLKSY, SINCERE MANNER AND PLAIN SPEECH. OF COURSE, THOSE CLOSE TO KIM DAE JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) DISCOUNT ANYTHING PRIME MINISTER OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT SAY, DENOUNCING THEM AS MRE STOOGES OF SEN. CHUN DOO-HWAN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN).

9. COMMENT: PROSPECTS HAVE IMPROVED IN THE LAST 24 HOURS FOR AVOIDING ARMED SUPPRESSION OF DISORDERS IN KWANGJU. THIS WILL NOT HOWEVER BE FULLY CLEAR UNTIL SECURITY FORCES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN PEACEFULLY RE-ENTERING THE CITY. AN EVENT PROBABLY SEVERAL DAYS AWAY. GLEYSTEEN

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