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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 017022

ADP562
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PAGE 01 SEOUL 17022 230847Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 PA-01
SPRS-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 ACDA-12 /083 W
-----011408 230853Z /13

O 230837Z DEC 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1079
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCINC KS
CHJUSMAG SEUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEUL KS//BJ-IS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T SEUL 17022

NOFORN

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 12/14/10 (BLAKEMORE DAVID) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: KWANGJU APPEALS TRIAL; AND, ARRESTS

REF: (A) SEUL 16949, (B) SEUL 16970, (C) SEUL 14538

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: EMOFF MET DECEMBER 23 WITH THE WIVES OF TWO PERSONS CONVICTED IN THE MASS TRIALS HELD IN KWANGJU IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ON CHARGES ARISING OUT OF THAT CITY'S MAY 1980 UPRISING (REF. C): MRS. MYONG NO-KUN (M-R), WHOSE PROFESSOR HUSBAND WAS SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS, AND MRS. HONG NAM-SUN (M-R), WHOSE HUSBAND, A DISTINGUISHED HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY, RECEIVED A LIFE SENTENCE. THE WOMEN SAID THAT THE VERDICTS IN THE MILITARY APPEALS TRIAL FOR THE KWANGJU DEFENDANTS ARE EXPECTED THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 23. THE WOMEN PETITIONED THE EMBASSY TO INTERCEDE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 17022 230847Z

WITH THE ROK AUTHORITIES FOR LENIENCY FOR THOSE CONVICTED IN THE KWANGJU TRIALS; THEY ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ON RECENT ARRESTS IN KWANGJU. END SUMMARY.

3. KWANGJU APPEALS TRIAL: THE WOMEN SAID THE APPELLATE TRIAL FOR THOSE WHO APPEALED THEIR CONVICTIONS IN THE KWANGJU COURTS MARTIAL (REF. C) WAS COMPLETED DECEMBER 20 OR 22, BUT THAT THE ISSUANCE OF VERDICTS WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE JUDGMENT PAPERS COULD BE SENT TO SEUL, APPROVED, AND

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date 9/13/93
 RELEASE DECLASSIFY MR Cases Only: _____
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY EO Citations _____
 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions B1 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
PA Exemptions _____ DOWNGRADE TS to S or C OADR

RETURNED TO KWANGJU. THE DEFENDANTS' FAMILIES HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE BACK IN KWANGJU THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 23, AND THAT THE VERDICTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THAT TIME.

4. PETITION: THE WOMEN SUBMITTED A LENGTHY PETITION ASKING THE EMBASSY TO INTERCEDE WITH THE AUTHORITIES TO GAIN CLEMENCY FOR THEIR HUSBANDS AND FOR OTHERS CONVICTED IN THE KWANGJU TRIALS. WE HAVE NOT COMPLETED OUR TRANSLATION OF THE DOCUMENT YET, BUT FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMENTS ON IT, ITS APPEAL IS ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. THE WOMEN SAID THEY REPRESENT "THE KWANGJU DEFENDANTS' FAMILIES," MOST OF WHOM, THEY SAID, FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. GAVE APPROVAL IN MAY FOR THE ROK AUTHORITIES' HANDLING OF THE KWANGJU UPRISING AND CAN NOW, IF IT WISHES, PREVAIL ON THESE SAME AUTHORITIES TO GRANT LENIENCY TO THE KWANGJU DEFENDANTS. EMBOFF PROMISED THE PETITION WILL BE READ CAREFULLY AND APPARENTLY ENJOYED SOME, BUT NOT COMPLETE, SUCCESS IN PERSUADING THE PETITIONERS THAT FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN CASES LIKE THIS IS VERY LIMITED.

5. ARRESTS: THE WOMEN SAID THERE HAS BEEN A MINI-WAVE OF ARRESTS IN KWANGJU SINCE DECEMBER 10, INCLUDING 12 PEOPLE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KWANGJU CULTURAL CENTER

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PAGE 03 : SEOUL 17022 230847Z

FIRE (REF. B) (NONE OF WHOM HAS BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED YET) AND OVER 40 STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR LEAFLETING. POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR THE PERSONS WHO POSTED A LARGE SIGN SAYING "KILL, DRAW AND QUARTER CHUN DOO-HWAN*" (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) (A POPULAR SLOGAN DURING THE MAY UPRISING) JUST OUTSIDE THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING ON DECEMBER 20. POLICE HAVE ALSO ARRESTED "MANY" PEOPLE FOR RUMORMONGERING.

6. WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED, AND WILL FORWARD SEPARATELY, A LIST, APPARENTLY COMPLETE, OF THE PERSONS TRIED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER IN KWANGJU. WE WILL TRY TO UPDATE IT TO REFLECT THE APPEALS TRIAL VERDICTS, BUT ARE NOT SURE HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO GET A COMPLETE LIST OF THE LATTER. GLEYSTEEN

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