

E1680

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79SEOUL 018868

740

ADP386  
SECRET

PAGE 01            SEOUL 18868    141043Z  
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
-----014582    141046Z /11

O 141039Z DEC 79  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3030

S E C R E T    SEOUL 18868

EXDIS

E.O. 12065:RDS-3 12/14/89 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M  
TAGS: PINT, MORG, KS  
SUBJECT: NEED FOR CARE IN CHARACTERIZING DECEMBER 12  
INCIDENT  
REF: SEOUL 18811

1. (S) ~~IN~~IR TEXT.

2. IN PART BECAUSE OF MY GROGGINESS, I FAILED TO EMPHA-  
SIZE IN REFTEL THAT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL IN HOW WE  
CHARACTERIZE THE DECEMBER 12 INCIDENT, ESPECIALLY IN ANY  
PUBLIC OF SEMI-PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS. I MYSELF CARELESSLY  
DESCRIBED IT AS A "COUP IN ALL BUT NAME". WHATEVER THE  
PRECISE PATTERN OF EVENTS, THEY DID NOT AMOUNT TO A  
CLASSICAL COUP BECAUSE THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE  
WAS TECHNICALLY LEFT IN PLACE. MOREOVER, WE ARE BEGINNING  
TO GET EXPLANATIONS, VERY DEFENSIVE IN TONE, WHICH ASSERT  
THAT THERE WAS NO PLANNING AND THAT THE INCIDENT WAS  
NOT INTENDED AS A COUP. I AM SKEPTICAL OF THESE EXPLANA-  
TIONS, BUT I THINK OUR INTERESTS BEST SERVED IF WE AVOID  
LABELS UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER GRASP OF THE FACTS.

3. THE IMPLICATIONS DESCRIBED REFTEL REMAIN PRETTY MUCH  
THE SAME IN ANY EVENT. GLEYSTEN

SECRET

NNN

EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A Caption removed;  
transferred to O/FADRC

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE            IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date: 9/13/93

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	MR Cases Only:
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCISE	<input type="checkbox"/> DECLASSIFY	EO Citations _____
<input type="checkbox"/> DENY	IN PART	
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Non-Responsive Info		TS authority to:
FOIA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> CLASSIFY as <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OADR
PA Exemptions _____		<input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TS to <input type="checkbox"/> S or <input type="checkbox"/> C OADR

R  
S/S

SECRET