

(E2140)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date. 9/13/93

TEXT OF TELEGRAM ROSEOUL 011647

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY
 DENY IN PART
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
 FOIA Exemptions _____
 PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only: _____
 EO Citations _____
 _____ TS authority to.
 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C OADR

555

ADP660
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 11647 050917Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 PM-07 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /069 W
-----120154 050941Z /21

P 050906Z SEP 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8934
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCUNC KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKORBA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 11647

E.O. 12958 GDS 09/06/86 (RICHARDSON, K. SPENCE) DR-P
TAGS: BINS, ELTN, SOPN, KS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHUN VISITS KWANGJU: MIXED SIGNALS

1. (U) PRESIDENT CHUN (M-R: CHON TU-HWAN) ON SEPTEMBER 5 VISITED KWANGJU, CAPITOL OF CHOLLA SOUTH PROVINCE AND SCENE OF MAY'S DISTURBANCES. AFTER HEARING BRIEFINGS ON FLOOD CONTROL FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, CHUN SAID HE WAS "SATISFIED THAT THE KWANGJU INCIDENT HAS BEEN SETTLED THROUGH THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE. WE SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE INCIDENT ANYMORE," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PROVINCE "WOULD RESTORE ITS HONOR AND SELF-RESPECT AND BE A MORE EXEMPLARY PROVINCE THAN OTHERS." IN A POTENTIALLY FAR-REACHING MOVE, CHUN ORDERED THE CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY TO FORMULATE A PLAN FOR BUILDING AN EXPRESSWAY "THROUGH (MASSIVE) CHIRI MOUNTAIN" WHICH WOULD CONNECT THE CHOLLAS WITH THE KYONGSANG PROVINCES.

2. (C) COMMENT: SUCH AN EXPRESSWAY, IF BUILT, WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CHOLLAS, CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 11647 050917Z

WHICH HAS POORER HIGHWAY AND RAIL FACILITIES AND CONNECTIONS THAN THE KYONGSANG AREA. TO CHOLLA RESIDENTS, WHOSE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHUN IS PRESUMABLY COLORED BY MEMORIES OF KWANGJU AND BY THE KIM DAE-JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) CASE, THE ROAD WOULD BE A CONCILIATORY GESTURE. HOWEVER, CHUN'S IMPLICATION THAT CHOLLA SOUTH PROVINCE HAS LOST ITS HONOR IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL. GLEYSTEN

