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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80STATE 287210

RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
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 DENY IN PART  
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 FOIA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_  
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MR Cases Only:  
 EO Citations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ TS authority to.  
 CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR  
 DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 HA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SPRS-02 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:R G RICH:L:J SMITH:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA/K:R G RICH  
HA:T TUL (SUBS)

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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMEMBASSY SEUL IMMEDIATE  
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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SUM, SOPN, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON KWANGJU COURT MARTIAL VERDICT

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED OCTOBER 27 FOR USE  
BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN BUT SUBJECT HAS NOT YET ARISEN  
AT BRIEFINGS.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. WHAT IS THE USG REACTION TO THE SENTENCING OF 175  
DEFENDANTS IN KOREA FOR THEIR ALLEGED ROLES IN THE  
KWANGJU UPRISING?

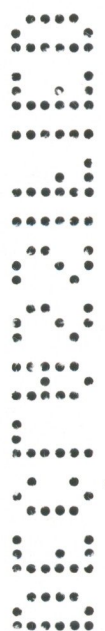
A. I NOTE THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE SENTENCES HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN SUSPENDED BY THE KWANGJU MILITARY COURT.  
IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FIVE DEATH SENTENCES  
(3 FOR SEDITION AND 2 FOR MURDER) WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE  
APPEALED, AND THAT MANY OF THOSE RECEIVING LESSER

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SENTENCES WILL ALSO APPEAL. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER,  
WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THESE CASES, SINCE THE COURT MARTIAL  
HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN CONDUCTED IN SECRECY. WE ABHOR  
SECRET TRIALS, WHEREVER CONDUCTED, AND HOPE THAT THE APPEAL  
PROCESS WILL BE CONDUCTED OPENLY FOR ALL TO OBSERVE.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS TRIAL AND  
THE TRIAL OF KIM DAE JUNG?



A. BECAUSE THIS TRIAL WAS HELD IN SECRET, WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS LINKED THEM TO KIM OR HIS CO-DEFENDANTS. WE DO KNOW THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF LAST SPRING FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE CHARGES AGAINST KIM, BUT WE NOTE THAT THE RIOTS IN KWANGJU OCCURRED AFTER KIM WAS ARRESTED. ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS IN THE KWANGJU TRIALS WHO WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH, THE STUDENT CHONG NYON-TONG, WAS CITED IN THE INDICTMENT OF KIM DAE JUNG AS HAVING RECEIVED MONEY FROM KIM TO ORGANIZE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. KIM DENIED THESE CHARGES AND DEMANDED THAT CHONG APPEAR TO TESTIFY. HOWEVER, THE COURT RULED THAT CHONG DID NOT HAVE TO APPEAR.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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SECRET