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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6678
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
COMUSKORSeoul KS/BJ-IS
CHUUSMAC SEOUL KS
SA CINCUSMAC

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 06865

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/29/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P
TAGS: A56G PIN, KS
SUBJECT: RELIEF AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITY IN KWANGJU AREA

REF: (A) SEOUL 68061, (B) FBIS 0W281331
1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. RELIEF ACTIVITIES (REF A) FOR KWANGJU APPEAR TO BE GOING FORWARD WELL. RECONCILIATION MAY PROVE MORE DIFFICULT.

3. RELIEF SUPPLIES BY ALL ACCOUNTS CONTINUE TO MOVE INTO THE CITY. NEW RELIEF MEASURES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AS WELL, INCLUDING THE SENDING OF 12 MEDICAL TEAMS INTO THE CITY AND THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHOSE STORES WERE DAMAGED. THE ARMY WILL ALLOW A NO-QUESTIONS-ASKED TURN-IN OF WEAPONS, ETC., LASTING THROUGH JUNE 10. THESE AND OTHER MEASURES SHOULD HELP GET THE CITY BACK TO NORMAL AND, WHILE NOT BILLED AS SUCH, THEY CORRESPOND CLOSELY TO SOME OF THE DEMANDS MADE DURING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD OF THE UPRISING BY THE KWANGJU CITIZENS’ COMMITTEE.

4. AN INTERVIEW GRANTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE, ARCHBISHOP YUN, SUGGESTS THAT RECONCILIATION MAY BE LESS EASY. THE BISHOP IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD AN AFP REPORTER (REF B) THAT "THE PEOPLE’S MIND WOULD NOT BE APPEASED UNTIL THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES APOLOGIZED FOR "BRUTALITY" DISPLAYED BY THEIR TROOPS.

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5. COMMENT: Yun's faction was generally considered that of the moderates within the city. However, an official apology will almost certainly not be forthcoming. The authorities' approach has been to castigate those who disrupted harmony and order in Kwangju. North Korean infiltrators, including one who was captured and whose mission apparently was to enter Kwangju, have received much press play; the implication has been that "impure elements" and communist instigators lay behind the whole affair. Official scapegoats -- The national and provincial police chiefs and the provincial governor -- all have come from the Home Ministry, which had little involvement in sparking the Kwangju disturbances -- none are from the army. The authorities have made a number of official expressions of "regret" ("Yugam"), etc., but that seems to be about as far as they are willing to go in the direction of an apology. GLEYSTEEN

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