

(E 2286)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

TRB Date. 9/13/93

RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
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935

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SE0UL 014053

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 ICAE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 HA-06 NSCE-00 PM-07  
SS-15 INRE-00 /054 W

-----098336 250734Z /13

O 250700Z OCT 80 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY SE0UL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9891  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
SA CINCLC K5  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
CHJUSMAG SE0UL K5  
COMUSKOREA SE0UL K5//BJ-IS

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, K5  
SUBJECT: SENTENCES PASSED IN KWANGJU

1. THE MILITARY COURT IN KWANGJU HAS FOUND ALL DEFENDANTS GUILTY AND HAS PASSED SENTENCES (THE KWANGJU TRIALS, OF 175 PEOPLE HELD ON CHARGES ARISING OUT OF THAT CITY'S MAY UPRISINGS, WERE REPORTED SEPTEL): FIVE DEFENDANTS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH, SEVEN TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT, AND 163 TO PRISON TERMS RANGING FROM FIVE TO TWENTY YEARS. SENTENCED TO DEATH WERE CHONG TONG-NYON (M-R), A KEY GOVERNMENT WITNESS IN THE KIM D'AE JUNG (M-R: KIM TAE-CHUNG) TRIAL; TWO STUDENTS; AND TWO DRIVERS, ALL CONVICTED OF SEDITION. LIFE SENTENCES, FOR SEDITION, VIOLATION OF MARTIAL LAW DECREES, AND, REPORTEDLY, BURGLARY, WERE HANDED TO CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER HONG NAM-SUN (M-R), 65, AND SIX OTHERS. A MARTIAL LAW COMMAND OFFICER CONFIRMED THIS INFORMATION BUT ADDED NO DETAILS.

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2. COMMENT: THESE SENTENCES ARE EXCEPTIONALLY HARSH: DEATH SENTENCES, EVEN FOR SEDITION, ARE RARE, AS ARE PRISON SENTENCES OF MORE THAN FIVE YEARS FOR POLITICAL OFFENSES. THE PASSING OF THESE SENTENCES WILL HURT IN THE ALREADY DIFFICULT TASK OF MOLLIFYING PUBLIC OPINION IN THE CHOLLA. GLEYSTEN

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