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TRANSIT/1430253/1430305/000:12TOR1430303 DE RUEHULA #6480 1430253 ZNY CCCCC

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUHQHQA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI//IPAC/IC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC//DDO-INT-RQ IMMEDIATE
INFO RUAGOTC/CDR501MIGP SEOUL KS PRIORITY
RUAGAAA/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS-H PRIORITY
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

SECTION 01 OF 02 06480

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.

1. (U) CTRY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)

2. (U) TITLE: SITUATION UPDATE - KWANGJU, KS (U)

3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 800521

4.

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SUMMARY: THIS REPORT TRANSMITS INFORMATION WHICH DATES THE SITUATION IN KWANGJU; KS.	
84. (U) DETAILS:	
REPORTED THAT THE KWANGJU SITUATION HAD WORSENED. ROK ARMY OFFICERS IN THE SEOUL AREA HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THE "WHOLE TRUTH" HOWEVER HAD TALKED TO	
CASUALTIES WERE VERY SERIOUS ON BOTH SIDES. STATED THAT THE SITUATION HAD DETERIORATED DURING THE DAY AND THAT NOT ALL INFORMATION WOULD BE PASSED TO US AUTHORITIES SINCE MOST OF THE REPORTING WAS CAVEATED THE EQUIVALENT OF US	
(2) WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, STATED THAT RIOTING HAD SPREAD WITHIN CHOLLA NAM PROVINCE TO INCLUDE NAJU AND SOME OTHER TOWNS. ESTIMATED CASUALTIES AS AT LEAST 500 TOTAL ON BOTH SIDES, WITH DEATHS UNKNOWN.	
RIOTERS IN KWANGJU HAD DESTROYED TAX OFFICES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND WERE HOLDING HOSTAGES, AMONG THEM SOME PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS. RIOTERS HAD ALSO CAPTURED A HRDF ARMURY TO INCLUDE RIFLES AND AMMUNITION; MOST OF THE CASUALTIES WERE AMONG THIS CATEGORY, WHERE TROOPS WERE AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY OR THEIR LIVES WERE IN DANGER. AT LEAST TWO APCS HAD ALSO BEEN CAPTURED. COMPARED SITUATION AT SOME LENGTH TO TONG HAK REBELLION (CIRCA 1886).	

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SERVICE TO THE KWANGJU AREA HAS BEEN TERMINATED, POSSIBLY BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

IS OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER AND CONFIRMED STRIPPING STORIES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

REPORTED AT 1930 HOURS LOCAL TIME 21 MAY THAT THREE INDEPENDENT SOURCES HAD REPORTED A GROWING ANTI-AMERICAN FLAVOR TO RECENT EVENTS. CHARACTERIZED THESE FEELINGS AS "EXTREMELY STRONG" AND STATED THAT THE US DECISION TO RELEASE ROK OPCON FORCES FOR RIOT CONTROL DUTY IN KWANGJU HAD GREATLY INCREASED THIS ANTI-AMERICAN MOOD.

8B. (U) ORIG CMTS: NONE.

9. (U) PROJ NO: N/A

11.

13. BT

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14. (U) REG EVAL: NO! REL TO: NONE.

15. (U) ENCL: N/A

16. (U) DIST BY ORIGE N/A

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