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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80SEOUL 008987

ADP165
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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08987 142302Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 IO-14 PC-01 AID-07 OCS-06
CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7721
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
SA CINCUNC KS
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 08987

E.O. 12065: GDS 07/14/86 (MONJO, JOHN) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SCUL, CASC, KS, JA
SUBJECT: SIX CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND A WOMAN HELPER IN CUS-
- TODY FOR "FABRICATING PROPAGANDA"

1. (U) THE MARTIAL LAW COMMAND (MLC) ANNOUNCED JULY 12 THAT SIX CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND A WOMAN LAYWORKER HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY JULY 8 AND ARE AT PRESENT UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR "FABRICATING PROPAGANDA AND SPREADING IT TO PEOPLE BOTH IN AND OUT OF THEIR PARISHES" IN CONNECTION WITH THE KWANGJU INCIDENT. THE INVESTIGATION WAS HEADLINED IN THE LOCAL PAPERS ALONG WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRINTING MATERIALS ALLEGEDLY USED BY THE GROUP. FIVE OF THE PRIESTS--O TAE-SUN (M-R O T'AE-SON); AN CHUNG-SOK (M-R); CHANG DO-PIL (M-R CHANG TOK-P'IL); KIM TAEK-AN (M-R); AND KIM SONG-YONG (M-R)--ARE FROM SEOUL, AS IS MARIENNE CHONG (M-R N/A) WHO WORKS AT THE LABOR COUNSELING OFFICE AT MYONGDONG CATHERDAL. THE SIXTH PRIEST, KIM SONG-YONG (M-R), IS FROM KWANGJU.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 08987 142302Z

2. (U) THE MLC ANNOUNCED THAT THE GROUP PRINTED THE "FABRICATIONS" AND SHIPPED THEM ABROAD, ALONG WITH TAPE RECORDINGS OF FALSE STATEMENTS CALLED "WITNESSES' TESTIMONY ABOUT THE KWANGJU INCIDENT." SOME WENT TO JAPAN, WHERE THAT COUNTRY'S "CATHOLIC COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE" RELEASED THE PRINTED MATERIALS AND TAPES AT A JUNE 5 NEWS CONFERENCE. THE JAPANESE GROUP ALSO SAID IT WOULD APPEAL TO THE RED CROSS, THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, AND THE VATICAN TO SEND GROUPS TO KWANGJU



*Kwangju is -
control of info*

TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, THE MATERIALS INCLUDED SUCH FALSEHOODS AS DESCRIPTIONS OF SOLDIERS KILLING PREGNANT WOMEN, OLD MEN, AND YOUNG WOMEN, AFTER FIRST STRIPPING AND SLASHING THE LATTER GROUP.

3. (C) IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, BPAO IN KWANGJU REPORTS RUMOR THAT A SPECIAL MASS TO PRAY FOR THE RELEASE OF A NUMBER OF NUNS AND PRIESTS ARRESTED AFTER THE KWANGJU DISTURBANCES (NOT THOSE LISTED PARA 1) WAS PREVENTED FROM TAKING PLACE BY THE POLICE, WHO ALSO ARRESTED THE PRIEST ABOUT TO CONDUCT THE SERVICE. IN ADDITION, A SEOUL JESUIT WITH TIES TO THE CATHOLIC FARMERS' ASSOCIATION (CFA) SAYS THE ORGANIZATIONS' OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN THREATENED WITH VIOLENCE.

4. (C) COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS OF OTHER ARRESTS OF RELIGIOUS FIGURES, IN ADDITION TO THOSE LISTED PARA 1. AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED (FATHER AN CHUNG-SOK) HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE MARYKNOLL GROUP (HIS PARISH ASSISTANT IS A MARYKNOLL PRIEST) AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY VERY WELL RECEIVE INQUIRIES ABOUT THE ARRESTS. GLEYSSTEEN

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