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RUAGAAA/COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//BJ-IS-H PRIORITY
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DIA FOR: DC-1A/CCF, DC-4, DC-4A, JSI-3C, DB-2D, DB-2C1

SUBJ: IR (U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.

1. (U) CTRY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)
2. (U) TITLE: STUDENT UNREST AND MARTIAL LAW (U)
3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 800518

4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]

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6. (U) SOURCE: AN EMINENT ROK EDUCATOR.

7. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT TRANSMITS INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARREST OF STUDENT LEADERS ON 17 MAY 1980.

8A. DETAILS: SOURCE REPORTED THAT DURING A MEETING OF STUDENT LEADERS AT Eonhaa UNIVERSITY IN SEOUL AT WHICH LEADERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WERE IN ATTENDANCE POLICE SUDDENLY APPEARED ON CAMPUS WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE ARRESTS. INITIALLY APPROXIMATELY 200 STUDENTS (ALMOST ALL IN ATTENDANCE) WERE DETAINED AT THE Eonhaa CAMPUS. SUFFICIENT POLICE BUSES WERE THERE TO TRANSPORT ALL 200. TEN YOUNG WOMEN (Eonhaa STUDENTS) WERE AMONG THOSE DETAINED. THE PRESIDENT OF Eonhaa IMMEDIATELY WENT TO ROK ARMY HEADQUARTERS DEMANDING TO SEE THE CHIEF OF STAFF. HE WAS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE HE WAS ALREADY IN ATTENDANCE AT A PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH PM ((SHIN)) WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF MEETINGS THAT ENDED IN TOTAL ML. THE PRESIDENT OF Eonhaa INSTEAD MET WITH THE VICE C/S, LTG ((HWANG)) TO REQUEST THE RELEASE OF Eonhaa WOMEN INTO HER CUSTODY. LTG HWANG REFUSED SAYING HE COULD NOT MAKE THAT DECISION. THE PRESIDENT RETURNED CONTINUING HER PLEA WITH THE POLICE AT THE CAMPUS. BY THIS TIME 25 STUDENTS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR ARREST. THIS INCLUDED THE TEN WOMEN FROM Eonhaa. THE WOMEN AND MEN WERE LOADED ON SEPARATE BUSES AND AS THEY LEFT THE CAMPUS FOR JAIL THE POLICE STOPPED THE BUS WITH THE Eonhaa WOMEN OUTSIDE OF THE CAMPUS GATES AND LET THE WOMEN RETURN TO THE CAMPUS WITHOUT FURTHER HARRASSMENT. ONLY 15 MEN, MOSTLY FROM THE SEOUL AREA WERE TAKEN OFF BY THE POLICE.

8B. THE POLICE ACTION IN THIS CASE SEEMS VERY UNCLEAR, WHEN THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARREST 200 OF THE PRINCIPAL STUDENT LEADERS, BUT INSTEAD NARROWED IT DOWN TO 15. PERHAPS THEY FEARED UNDUE REACTION TO THE ARREST OF ALL 200, ALTHOUGH GIVEN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE ROK I DOUBT THAT THIS WAS A CONSIDERATION. SOURCE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT (LTG ((CHON)) TU HWAN) WANTED STUDENTS TO PICKUP THE "GAUNTLET" IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO STUDENT DEMANDS, THEN THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE THEM LEADERLESS. PERHAPS THIS WAS ONLY AN EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MODERATE HANDLING

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[REDACTED]
OF THE STUDENT PROTESTS. IF SO IT IS LIKELY TO BE THE LAST
MODERATED RESPONSE FOR A WHILE, SINCE ML AUTHORITIES HAVE
PROMISED STERN ACTIONS FOR ANY AND ALL VIOLATORS OF ML.

- 9. (U) PROJ NO: N/A
 - 10. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: AB.
 - 11. (U) SPEC INST: DIRC-NO.
 - 12. (U) PREP BY: [REDACTED]
 - 13. (U) APP BY: [REDACTED]
 - 14. (U) REQ EVAL: NO REL TO: NONE.
 - 15. (U) ENCL: N/A
 - 16. (U) DIST BY ORIG: N/A
- [REDACTED]

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