

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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TO DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
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FOR: DIA-DB-20/DC-4A

SURJ: IP (U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTY: REPUBLIC OF KOREA (KS)
2. (U) TITLE: STUDENT UNREST UPDATE (U)
3. (U) DTD OF INFO: 800514

7. SUMMARY: THIS REPORT TRANSMITS AN UPDATED  
SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA.



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8A. (U) DETAILS:

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-1. [REDACTED] THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRING ON 13 MAY 1980 APPEAR TO BE ACTIONS TAKEN BY EXTREME RADICAL ELEMENTS AT KEY UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH KOREA. INDICATION ARE THAT THESE ELEMENTS ARE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF STUDENT DISSIDENTS RECENTLY RELEASED FROM JAILS WHERE THEY HAD BEEN INCARCERATED FOR SIMILAR ACTIVITIES DURING THE PARK ERA. GENERALLY IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE RADICALS DO NOT REPRESENT THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP, WHICH HAD PROMISED A MORE RESPONSIBLE ACTION, BY ALTERING PLANS FOR OFF-CAMPUS PROTESTS, TO PLANS FOR MASS RALLIES ON THE CAMPUSES.

-2. [REDACTED] SOME EYE WITNESSES TO THE 2100 HOURS DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN, SEOUL HAVE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE RIOT POLICE, WHO WERE USED TO QUELL THE SITUATION, PERFORMED IN A COMMENDABLE MANNER, EXERTING MINIMUM FORCE. ALTHOUGH INJURIES OCCURRED ON BOTH SIDES, TO INCLUDE AT LEAST 4 KOREAN NEWSMEN (1 OF WHOM IS REPORTED IN A SERIOUS CONDITION), IN VIEW OF STUDENT INTENSITY OF ACTION, INJURIES AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY WERE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. NO MILITARY WAS EVIDENT AT ANY OF THE DEMONSTRATION SITES. THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH ROKG'S ANNOUNCED POLICY OF HANDLING INTERNAL DISORDERS BY POLICE ACTIONS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION TO C/S GAS, A WATER CANNON WAS USED AT THE DOWNTOWN DEMONSTRATION SITE TO DISPERSE STUDENT GROUPS.

-3. [REDACTED] IN A CONVERSATION WITH SEVERAL GRADUATE STUDENTS AN OFFICIAL REPORTED IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE TACTICS TO BE EMPLOYED BY STUDENT ACTIVISTS IS NOT YET FULLY FORMULATED AND THAT GOALS AND ISSUES ARE STILL SOMEWHAT VAGUE. THEY ASSERTED THAT CONFRONTATION WITH THE MILITARY WAS INEVITABLE.

NOTE: THE ISSUE CONCERNING ((KIM)) CHAE KYU, PRESIDENT PAK'S ASSASSIN, DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY GREAT MOMENTUM AT THIS TIME. MARTIAL LAW IS THE KEY MOST ISSUE CURRENTLY BEING PROTESTED, HOWEVER, CONSISTENT WITH SOURCES ASSESSMENT STUDENT TACTICS DO NOT SEEM TO BE WELL DEFINED ON THE ML ISSUE.

8B. [REDACTED] CONCERNING THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP'S ANNOUNCED DECISION TO CHANGE PLANS FOR OFF

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CAMPUS DEMONSTRATIONS AND REMAIN ON THE CAMPUSES. PERSONS CLOSE TO THE STUDENT MOVEMENT FEEL THE STUDENTS FULLY REALIZE THAT TOO AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS WILL INVITE SCHOOL CLOSING. THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR MOVEMENT. THEREFORE AFTER REASSESSMENT, A COMPROMISE DECISION WAS MADE. AT LEAST ONE NEW SOURCE REPORTED CONTRADICTIONARY INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS OFF CAMPUS IN YONGDUNGPO AREA FOR 14 MAY 80. THIS WAS REPORTED IN

IR [REDACTED] PROVIDED THE STUDENTS STAY ON THE CAMPUSES. THIS WILL BE A MOVE TOWARD MODERATION ON THEIR PART AND SOMEWHAT UNCHARACTERISTIC OF THEIR ACTIONS TO DATE. THUS FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSCIENTIOUSLY SOUGHT WAYS TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION, BUT UNLESS THE STUDENTS ADOPT A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE THIS PROBLEM IS NOT GOING TO HAVE AN EASY SOLUTION. THE RADICAL STUDENT ELEMENT IS RELATIVELY SMALL. WITHOUT GAINING SUPPORT FROM THE REST OF THE STUDENT BODY FOR OFF-CAMPUS DEMONSTRATIONS THEIR EFFORTS CAN PROBABLY BE HANDLED WITHOUT THE MILITARY BEING CALL UPON.

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

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