TEXT OF TELEGRAM BO SEOUL 006522
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PAGE 01
SEOU 06522 221019Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SS0-00 ICIE-00 INRE-00 CC0-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-07 PC-01 OC-06 DFR-02 A-02 SY-05 SYE-00 FEMA-02 HA-05 OCT-02 DMB-01 AGA-12 10-14 ANAE-00 OCS-06 CA-01 /116 W

O 221005Z MAY 80
FM AMBASSAD SEUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6508
INFO AMBASSAD TOKYO
SA CINCYN KS CHUS US SEUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEUL KS//BJ-IS

C O N F I D E N T I A L
SEOU 06522

E.O. 2065: GDS 05/22/86 (CLARK WIIIAM) OR-P
TAGS: ASE PINS KS
SUBJCT: KOREA SITREP, 1800, MAY 22, 1980

REF: SEUL 6432

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. CALM CONTINUES IN SEOUL AND MOST MAJOR CITIES. TROOP UNITS OBSERVED YESTERDAY IN DOWNTOWN PUSAN (REFTEL) ARE NO LONGER IN EVIDENCE. TROOPS WHO WERE ENCAMPED ON THE YONSEI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN SEOUL HAVE PULLED OUT, LEAVING ONLY GUARD FORCE. AND RUMOR HAS IT THEY HAVE GONE TO KWANGJU.

3. KWANGJU: PRIOR TO THE MILITARY PULL OUT, A SEOUL BROADCAST, MONITORED 8:00 P.M. YESTERDAY, MAY 21, BY FBIS, SAYS DEMONSTRATORS IN KWANGJU "INCREASED TO 150,000 TODAY AND FINALY BECAME RIOTERS." THE "RIOTERS" WERE SAID TO HAVE SEIZED 238 VEHICLES, ABOUT 3,500 FIREARMS, AND 46,400 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION. LOOTING AND SHOOTING INCIDENTS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02
SEOU 06522 221019Z

DESCRIBED, WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT "KWANGJU CITY (HAS)
TURNED COMPLETELY INTO A SCENE OF HORRORS." NO CASUALTY FIGURES WERE GIVEN. PARATROOPERS WERE SAID TO BE DEFENDING AGAINST RIOTERS WHO WERE Firing TWO AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FROM THE ROOF OF CHONNAM MEDICAL COLLEGE. RIOTERS WERE REPORTED Firing ON HELICOPTERS OVERHEAD.

4. AS OF 2:00 A.M. MAY 22, ARMY TROOPS IN KWANGJU WERE ORDERED TO PULL BACK FROM THE CITY AND TO FIRE ONLY IF

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FIRE UPON, AND THEN TO AIM FOR THE LOWER HALF OF THE BODY.
PANIC HAVE ALSO WITHDRAWN. A FURTHER POLICE REPORT, AS OF
LATE MORNING MAY 22, WAS THAT CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN SET UP
AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF KWANGJU WHERE CITIZENS MAY TURN IN
CAPTURED FIREARMS, AND THAT "SOME" (NO FIGURES) WEAPONS HAD
BEEN TURNED IN. THOSE TURNING IN ARMS REPORTEDLY TOLD
TROOPS THAT "OTHERS" HAD FORCED THEM TO ACCEPT THE WEAPONS.
DISORDERS IN THE CITY CONTINUE BUT, AS OF 6:00 P.M. MAY 22,
THERE WERE SOME INDICATIONS THEY MIGHT BE COOLING DOWN
SOMewhat.

5. OUTSIDE KWANGJU, DISORDERS REMAIN CONFINED TO SOUTH
CHOLLA PROVINCE. PLACES AFFECTED ARE MOKPO (REFTEL),
SURROUNDED BY TROOPS; NAJU (REFTEL); HWASUN, SOUTH OF
KWANGJU; AND SUNCH’ON, ABOUT 40 MILES FROM KWANGJU IN THE
DIRECTION OF MASAN.

6. THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO BE
RESTRAINED BUT THAT ANY NORTHWARD MOVEMENT OF DISTURBANCES
WOULD MAKE THIS VERY DIFFICULT. WE HAVE ALSO HAD REPORTS
THAT VICE GOVERNOR IS MEETING WITH A SMALL GROUP OF STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES. TONGA RADIO IN SEOUL REPORTS NEW PRIME
MINISTER IS ADDRESSING 20,000 KWANGJU RESIDENTS, BUT WE
HAVE NO FURTHER CONFIRMATION.

7. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT A FEW OF THE
MISSIONARIES WHO WERE IN KWANGJU HAVE RETURNED TO TAEJON.
THEY DID THIS BY PUTTING AN AMERICAN FLAG ON THEIR CAR
AND DRIVING OUT OF THE CITY. THEY REPORT THEY WERE
CHEERED ON THEIR WAY OUT. THE OTHER MISSIONARIES HAVE
ELECTED TO REMAIN FOR THE PRESENT.

8. COMMENT: "DESIRE FOR RESTRAINT AT PRESENT SEEMS SINCERE
ON PART OF ROK ARMY LEADERS: CONTAINMENT RATHER THAN
SUPPRESSION IS THE STRATEGY FOR THE PRESENT, AND THE
RETENTION OF THE HOME AND DEFENSE MINISTERS IN THE NEW
CABINET SUGGESTS IT MAY CONTINUE. LIMITED FIRING ORDER
GIVEN TO TROOPS IN KWANGJU STRENGTHENS THIS IMPRESSION.
CONCERN WITH NORTHWARD MOVEMENT IS APPARENTLY EQUAL.
GENUINE: NORTH OF KWANGJU LIES CHOLLA PUKTO PROVINCE,
WHICH SHARES WITH KWANGJU AND CHOLLA NAMDO A SOMEWHAT
REBELLIOUS TRADITION AS WELL AS A DEEP ATTACHMENT TO KIM DAE JUNG. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT TENSION IS HIGH IN CH’ONJU, CAPITAL OF CHOLLA PUKTO. GOVERNMENT MAY HOPE TO PERSUADE KIM DAE JUNG’S FOLLOWERS TO COOPERATE IN PREVENTING DISORDERS IN THIS AREA. IF PEACEFUL METHODS FAIL, GOVERNMENT HAS 20TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PLUS AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL FORCES UNITS, ON ALERT IN CHOLLA NAMDO.

GLEYSTEEN