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DRAFTED BY EA/KIN G RICHARD  
APPROVED BY EATH HOLBROOKE  
S/S:R SC174O 150028Z DEC 79 ZFFG  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE  
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 3172

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E.O. 12065: RUS-1 AND 3 12/14/99 (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

TAGS: PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: KOREA FOCUS: ROK AMBASSADOR KIN TRYS TO EXERT  
INFLUENCE

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE CALLED IN ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK LATE DEC 13 AND STRESSED TO HIM THE POTENTIALLY GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR US-ROK RELATIONS IF THE EVENTS OF DECEMBER 12 SHOULD RESULT IN THE REVERSAL OF THE PROCESS OF RAPIDLY POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE ROK AND REIMPOSITION OF POLITICAL CONTROLS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SUCH AS EM-B WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND UNSUPPORTABLE BY KOREA'S FRIENDS ABROAD.

3. EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THESE POTENTIALLY DIRE CON-

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E. LAMIGLIA  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 JUN 2005 200501785

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SEQUENCES WOULD NOT EMERGE; HOLBROOKE REQUESTED ASSURANCES FROM THE ROKE REGARDING FUTURE INTENTIONS.

4. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 12 (STATE 321048) AND THAT HE WOULD CONVEY MR. HOLBROOKE'S MESSAGE PROMPTLY TO SEOUL AND SEEK ASSURANCES IN RETURN.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE WERE INFORMED ON DEC 14 THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING THE AMBASSADOR SENT A VERY STRONG MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CHOI EXPRESSING THE CONCERNS OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS HIS OWN CONCERNS AND URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ACT MORE FORCEFULLY TO RETAIN INFLUENCE OVER THE SITUATION AND PRESERVE THE MOMENTUM TOWARD POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS MESSAGE WAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CHOI ABOUT FIVE HOURS BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW CABINET.

6. AMBASSADOR KIM IS ALSO CONSULTING WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HERE, MAJOR GENERAL AMN, AND SEEKING TO ENLIST HIS INFLUENCE TO MODERATE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE YOUNG GENERALS GROUP. GENERAL AMN IS A KRA 11TH CLASS CLASSMATE OF MAJOR GENERAL CHUN TU-HAN AND A FAIRLY CLOSE FRIEND. AMN IS REPORTED TO US TO HAVE SAID HE WOULD HAVE COUNSELED CHUN AGAINST DIRECT ACTION IF HE HAD BEEN IN SEOUL (PLEASE PROTECT).

7. ANOTHER CHANNEL BEING USED BY AMBASSADOR KIM FOR INFLUENCE IN SEOUL IS PRESIDENT CHOI'S SON-IN-LAW WHO IS A JUNIOR OFFICER IN THE POLITICAL SECTION HERE. THE SON-IN-LAW HAS TELEPHONED PRESIDENT CHOI TWICE IN THE PAST TWO

DAYS URGING HIS FATHER-IN-LAW TO ACT MORE FORCEFULLY TO

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PREVENT EROSION OF THE SITUATION, VANCE

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