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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date. 9/13/93

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79SEOUL 016654

RELEASE
 EXCISE
 DENY
 DELETE Non-Responsive Info
 FOIA Exemptions _____
 PA Exemptions _____

MR Cases Only:
 EO Citations _____
 _____ TS authority to.
 CLASSIFY as S or C OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to S or C OADR

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /063 W
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O 010933Z NOV 79
 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2011
 AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 AMEMBASSY MANILA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 INFO SA CINCUMC KS
 CHUJIEAFE N T I A L SEOUL 16654

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 11/1/89 (CLARK, WILLIAM) DR-P
 TAGS: PINT KS
 SUBJECT: SEOUL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

REF: SEOUL 16583 ✓

1. ██████ - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. SITUATION REMAINED CALM. CAPITOL BUILDING GROUNDS WHICH WERE MAIN SITE WHERE CITIZENS GO TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES WERE CLOSED TO PREPARE FOR SATURDAY'S STATE FUNERAL. LARGE NUMBERS OF MOURNERS APPROACHED SITE, HOWEVER, THROUGHOUT DAY, APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT GROUNDS HAD BEEN CLOSED.
3. BOTH RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE BEEN SHOWING ██████████

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SIGNS OF DISCREET ACTIVITY. POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN MAKING CONTACTS WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES, BUT HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD OF NATIONAL MOURNING. NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM TOLD EMBOFF HE WOULD HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOV. 6 TO ANNOUNCE PARTY'S RETURN TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THIS EVIDENTLY IMPLIES NDP MAY NOT BE PRESENT AT OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON NOV. 5.

4. LEADERS FROM BOTH LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE WINGS OF

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PROTESTANT CHURCHES PLAN TO ISSUE A STATEMENT NEXT WEEK CALLING FOR MORE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR KOREA IN FUTURE. AT PRESENT LEADERS BELIEVE STATEMENT WILL BE UNSPECIFIC AS TO FORMS WHICH MAY SERVE TO ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND WILL NOT PRESS GOVERNMENT, EVEN ON SUCH ISSUES AS EARLY RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. WE ARE TOLD STATEMENT WILL ALSO BE DIRECTED AT U.S. GOVT TO ELICIT U.S. INFLUENCE IN MOVEMENT TOWARD MORE DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT.

5. WHILE OPPOSITION, CHURCHES AND DISSIDENTS UNITED IN DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY, THEY DO NOT SEEM TO AGREE ON TIME-TABLE FOR NEW SYSTEM. KIM YONG-SAM SEEMS TO FAVOR EARLY FREE ELECTIONS AS HE IS BEST PREPARED TO MOUNT QUICK CAMPAIGN. THOSE AROUND KIM TAE-CHUNG APPEAR INCLINED TO ACCEPT INTERIM GOVT AND LATER ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD GIVE THEIR CANDIDATE TIME TO ORGANIZE HIMSELF. CHURCHES AND MANY IN OPPOSITION AND DISSIDENT CIRCLES WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH GOVT DECLARATION OF INTENTION TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AT SOME SPECIFIC TIME FOLLOWED BY INTERIM GOVT OF FROM ONE TO TWO YEARS. THEY FEEL HURRIED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES COULD RESULT IN PATCHWORK OF HASTILY AND ILL-CONSIDERED LAWS WHICH MIGHT NOT SUIT NATION.


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6. OPPOSITION AND DISSIDENTS ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANGE, BECAUSE THEY FEEL RECENT EVENTS SHOWED PEOPLE UNEASY WITH YUSIN AND THAT WHILE THEY MIGHT HAVE KNUCKLED UNDER FOR PRESIDENT PARK NO LESSER PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT WORK. HOWEVER, THEY FEAR ARMY MAY HARBOR YET UNKNOWN
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PLOTTERS WITHIN ITS RANKS, AND ON A PRACTICAL PLANE, THEY DO NOT KNOW WHERE POWER LIES IN THE ACTING GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT A FEEL FOR WHO THEIR ENEMIES ARE, THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FRAME TACTICS. IN THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW TO PROCEED, MANY WILL CALL ON THE U.S. TO SOLVE PROBLEM FOR THEM. GLEYSTEN


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