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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79SEOUL 016365

ADP205

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SY-05 A-02 PC-01
AID-05 /O78 W

-----060654 280519Z /12

O 280459Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1852
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

SEOUL 16365

KUALA LUMPUR FOR EA ASST SEC HOLBROOKE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

SITREP 4

EO 12065: GSM 10/28/85 (BLEHA, C.T.)
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SEOUL AS OF NOON, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

- ENTIRE TEXT.
- THE SITUATION IN SEOUL REMAINS VERY MUCH AS IT WAS YESTERDAY, CALM WITH ACTIVITY NEARLY NORMAL. FLAGS ARE BEING FLOWN THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND ON TAXI CABS EITHER AT HALF STAFF OR WITH BLACK CREPE. ALTHOUGH IT IS SUNDAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE OPEN FOR THEIR REGULAR WEEKDAY OFFICE HOURS AS ARE NEWSPAPER OFFICES. AN HOUR-AND-A HALF WALK AROUND THE CENTRAL SEOUL AREA INDICATES THAT

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THE CITY IS FUNCTIONING AS USUAL WITH ONLY A FEW TROOPS AND PLAINCLOTHESMEN IN EVIDENCE IN THE MAIN CAPITAL BUILDING/BLUEHOUSE AREA. BRANCH PAO'S REPORT SIMILAR CONDITIONS.

3. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY OVER THE EVENTS THAT LED TO PRESIDENT PARK'S DEATH. PEOPLE ARE TRADING VERSIONS OF THOSE EVENTS, COMMENTING ON THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF CERTAIN

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ASPECTS AND SPECULATING TO FILL IN THE GAPS. THERE IS MUCH SKEPTICISM ABOUT QUOTE ACCIDENTIAL END QUOTE SHOOTING OF PRESIDENT. AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT OF THE INCIDENT IS PROMISED FOR THE NEXT DAY OR SO.

4. THE RULING PARTIES HAVE MADE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON THE DEATH. THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY STATEMENT STRESSED NATIONAL UNITY, COOPERATION WITH THE MARTIAL LAW FORCES AND MAINTAINING THE PEOPLE'S STANDARD OF LIVING. THE APPOINTED YUJONGHOE PARTY ALSO WARNED NORTH KOREA. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY QUOTE STAFF MEMBERS END QUOTE MET TO ORDER FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF-MAST AT ALL PARTY OFFICES AND EXPRESS CONDOLENCES. NDP PRESIDENT KIM YONG-SAM, IN AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT, REFERRED TO THE DEATH AS A QUOTE HEART-RENDING EVENT END QUOTE AND SAID HE PRAYED FOR PARK'S SOUL.

5. AS YESTERDAY, THE MEDIA IS FILLED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH NEWS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH AND RELATED EVENTS. UNDER BANNER HEADLINES, FRONT PAGES ARE DEVOTED TO NEWS OF THE DEATH AND MARTIAL LAW AND FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. INSIDE PAGES REVIEW AT GREAT LENGTH IN TEXT AND PHOTOS PARK'S LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND REACTION FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THE U.S. STATEMENT AND PRESIDENT

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CARTER'S CONDOLENCE LETTER RECEIVE PROMINENT TREATMENT, AS DO JAPANESE STATEMENTS AND THE DECISION OF PM OHIRA TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL. TELEVISION, FOR THE MOST PART, IS GIVEN OVER TO FILM CLIPS OF PARK MEETING WITH KOREANS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, PRESIDING OVER OFFICIAL EVENTS, OR GREETING FOREIGN VISITORS SHOWN WITH SUBTITLES AND SOMBER BACKGROUND MUSIC.

6. UNLESS THE SITUATION CHANGES, WE DO NOT PLAN FURTHER SITREP REPORTS. GLEYSTEN

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