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EXCISE

E.O. 12065: NDS-1 10/19/99 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK REGARDING DOMESTIC
POLITICAL CRISIS

REF: SEOU 10823M

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: SECRETARY BROWN AND I WERE MILDLY ENCOURAGED BY PARK'S CALM REACTION TO PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AND OUR URGING THAT HE DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESUME THE MORE LIBERAL POLICIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CARTER VISIT AND OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPROMISE WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTY. THE BURDEN OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE WAS THAT

SUMMARY.

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Reviewed by: *[Signature]*

Date: 20 Nov 82

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PAGE 02 SEDUL 10049 01 OF 02 190705Z

3. FOLLOWING OUR MORE GENERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK OCTOBER 18, SECRETARY BROWN AND I STAYED ON BY PRE-ARRANGEMENT TO DISCUSS THE KOREAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. AFTER HANDING HIM PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER AND REVIEWING ITS CONTENTS, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO ALLOW THE CURRENT SITUATION TO AFFECT OUR SECURITY TIES WITH THE ROK, BUT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US IF THERE WERE NO RETURN TO THE MORE LIBERAL TREND ASSOCIATED WITH THE CARTER VISIT TO KOREA. I REVIEWED MY EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, INCLUDING CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE ROK, AND EXPLAINED WHY THEY HAD REACTED SO NEGATIVELY TO THE EXPULSION OF THE OPPOSITION LEADER FROM THE ASSEMBLY. I URGED THAT PARK MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD (A) REASSURE THOSE PEOPLE WITHIN KOREA AND ABOARD WHO FEARED HE WERE ON THE EVE OF A WIDESPREAD CRACK-DOWN, AND (B) OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPROMISE WITH THE OPPOSITION PARTY. HE COMPLIMENTED THE PRESIDENT ON THE DECISION TO RELEASE CERTAIN PEOPLE HELD UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURE 9, NOTING THAT FURTHER RELEASES AND ACTIONS OF THIS KIND WOULD SIGNAL TO PEOPLE THAT MARTIAL LAW IN PUSAN AND OTHER ACTIONS WERE NOT THE HARBINER OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION.

4. PRESIDENT PARK REVIEWED [

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PAGE 03

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6. WE NOTED THAT OUR ACTIONS WERE NECESSARILY AFFECTED BY THE NATURE OF OUR OWN SOCIETY, INCLUDING A CONGRESS WITH STRONG OPINIONS. WE WERE AWARE OF THE DANGER THAT U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS MIGHT EXACERBATE THE CONFRONTATION IN KOREA, AND WE TRIED TO MINIMIZE THIS DANGER. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WERE CERTAIN EVENTS WHERE U.S. COMMENT WAS INESCAPABLE.

7. COMMENT: 1

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SECTION 02 OF 02 SEUL 15040

THE RELEASES OF A FEW KNCC EM-9 VIOLATORS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SIGNS INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO OFFSET THE HEAVY POPULAR COST OF ITS RECENT BEHAVIOR. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT CAN SIMULTANEOUSLY USE TOUGH DETERRENT TACTICS, SUCH AS THE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN PUSAN, AND THE SOFTER TECHNIQUES NECESSARY TO ALLAY POPULAR CONCERN AND WENEN SOME DEGREE OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE OPPOSITION. GLEYSTEN

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