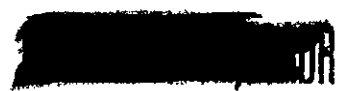


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E.O. 12065: GDS 2/29/86 (BLAKEMORE, DAVID)

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, SDCI, KS, EAIR, ENRG, PINR, PEPR, KN, JA

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - DAVID BLAKEMORE, ACTING

1. TWO KOREAN OPINION POLLS (L.O.U.)

RESULTS OF TWO RECENT OPINION SAMPLES OFFER INTERESTING CLUES TO ATTITUDES OF THE KOREAN POPULACE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE POST-PARK ERA. OPINIONS SAMPLED IN THE POLLS, DONE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BY TWO MAJOR DAILIES, THE TONGA ILBD (SEOUL) AND THE TAEGU MAEIL

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(TAEGU), REFLECT PREDOMINANTLY THE VIEWS OF EDUCATED ADULT SEOULITES, WITH SOME PROVINCIAL, RURAL, AND STUDENT VOICES HEARD AS WELL. RESULTS INDICATE THAT, EVEN AS INTEREST GROWS IN THE SHAPING OF A KOREAN DEMOCRACY, TRADITIONAL VALUES RETAIN A STRONG GRIP. DOMINANT CONCERNS APPARENTLY CONTINUE TO BE THOSE OF DEMOCRATIZATION, ECONOMIC HEALTH, AND NATIONAL SECURITY, WITH INCREASING ATTENTION DEVOTED TO CRIME AND POLLUTION. A PATTERN EMERGES OF STRONGLY TRADITIONAL (I.E., NEGATIVE) ATTITUDES TOWARDS POLITICAL PARTIES

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AND POLITICIANS, BUSINESSMEN, PUBLIC SERVANTS, GOVERNMENT, AND THE GENERAL STATE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, AS WELL AS SATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE ECONOMY IN THE PAST AND SOME OPTIMISM THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE. (NOTE: THE POLLS ANTEDATED THE DEVALUATION AND SHARP HIKES IN FUEL PRICES.) IF THESE TEA LEAVES HOLD A DESIGN FOR KOREA'S NEAR FUTURE, IT MIGHT BE: ECONOMICALLY A CONTINUATION OF THE COMPETENT MANAGEMENT OF THE '70'S, WITH PERHAPS MORE ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, POLITICALLY, A PRESIDENTIAL OR MIXED PRESIDENTIAL/PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM WITH DIRECT POPULAR ELECTIONS, A STRONG EXECUTIVE WITH LIMITED TENURE, AND A SLOWLY GROWING ROLE OF PARTIES AS VEHICLES OF MASS EXPRESSION WITH, AT LEAST AT FIRST, RATHER LIMITED SCOPE FOR A REFORMIST THIRD PARTY; OVERALL, A SUFFICIENT APPRECIATION OF TRADITIONAL PROPRIETY TO MODULATE BUT NOT STAUNCH THE GROWING DESIRE FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEMOCRATIZATION. (MCNEAL)

2. CIVAIR: TO AGREE OR NOT TO AGREE (L.O.U.)

EVER SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF A NEW BILATERAL CIVAIR AGREEMENT 18 MONTHS AGO, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF IRRITANTS TO US AIRLINE OPERATIONS IN KOREA, CAUSED BY KOREAN FAILURE

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TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVELY SOME OF THE TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. DURING THIS PERIOD WE HAVE HELD BACK ACTION ON KOREAN REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD INDUCE THE ROKG TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE APPARENTLY CONCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE THE KOREANS HAVE IN FACT BEEN DISADVANTAGED IN THEIR ACCESS TO THE US MARKET RELATIVE TO SOME OTHER EA COUNTRIES, WE SHOULD AGREE TO A MEETING IN MARCH OR APRIL AT WHICH THE KOREANS WOULD LIKELY BE GRANTED NEW TRAFFIC RIGHTS. EMBASSY SEOUL HAS EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF GIVING AWAY OUR LEVERAGE BEFORE THE IRRITANTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AND WE ARE WORKING WITH EB ON A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE APPROACH, WHICH WOULD DRAW A CLEAR PICTURE FOR THE KOREANS OF WHAT TRAFFIC RIGHTS THEY ARE MISSING BY NOT DEALING WITH SOME OF THE OPERATIONAL IRRITANTS. (PORTER)

3. CRUDE SUPPLY REMAINS A SLIPPERY PROBLEM (L.O.U.)

WHILE ENERGY WAS A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING THE DPM'S VISIT HERE LAST WEEK, LEE EXPRESSED MORE CONCERN OVER PRICES THAN SUPPLY, WHICH HE SAID IS NOW GUARANTEED BY LONG-TERM COMMITMENTS FROM SUPPLIERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE KOREAN PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED A MARCH OIL SEEKING MISSION TO KUWAIT AND OTHER COUNTRIES BY ENERGY MINISTER YANG YOON-SAE AND CONTINUES TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE SHORTFALLS

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EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTS THAT ROKG OFFICIALS SHARE THAT CONCERN AND FEAR THAT UNLESS KUWAIT AGREES TO SUPPLY 150,000 BL/D AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE GULF CONTRACT -- AND, UNLESS ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES CAN BE FOUND ELSEWHERE -- KOREA MAY FACE A 30 PERCENT SHORTFALL (200,000 BL/D) FROM APRIL. (PORTER)

4. ROKG PLANS NEW US CONGENS (UNCL)

THE KOREAN EMBASSY TOLD US OF ITS INTENTION THIS WEEK

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FORMALLY TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW CONSULATES GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES. ONE WILL DEFINITE BE IN ANCHORAGE, WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH FISHING ISSUES; THE OTHER, CONCERNED MAINLY WITH AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, IS MOST LIKELY TO BE IN KANSAS CITY. THIS WILL BRING TO 13 THE NUMBER OF KOREAN CONSULATES IN THE US. (BLAKEMORE)

5. WHITHER KIM HYUNG WOOK? (L.O.U.)

HAVE YOU LOST SLEEP LATELY WONDERING ABOUT THE FATE OF FORMER KCIA DIRECTOR KIM HYUNG WOOK, LAST SEEN IN A PARIS GAMBLING (GAMBOLING?) DEN ON OCTOBER 9? THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE HAS REPORTED TO US THE RESULTS OF THE GOJ'S PERSISTENT INQUIRIES WITH THE PARIS POLICE. APPARENTLY KIM LEFT PARIS OCTOBER 9 IN THE COMPANY OF ANOTHER KOREAN MALE, BOUND FOR DHARAN VIA ZURICH. THERE THE NARRATIVE TAILS OFF, HOWEVER, AND THE FRENCH POLICE HAVE RELUCTANTLY (:) CLOSED THE FILE ON THE CASE. (BLAKEMORE)

6. JAPANESE DELEGATIONS TO VISIT NORTH KOREA (CONF)

TWO DELEGATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE JAPANESE DIET ARE PLANNING VISITS TO NORTH KOREA WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE ROK. THE FIRST DELEGATION, REPRESENTING

THE DIETMEN'S LEAGUE FOR JAPAN-KOREA FRIENDSHIP IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATING RENEWAL OF AN UNOFFICIAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES IN JUNE. THE SECOND DELEGATION, REPRESENTING THE LDP'S ASIA-AFRICA RESEARCH COUNCIL AND HEADED BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER MIHARA, HOPES TO MEET WITH KIM IL SUNG AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, SINO-SOVIET TENSIONS AND JAPAN-

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DPRK RELATIONS. THE MIHARA SEEMS TO REFLECT A SHIFT IN THE
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UNOFFICIAL JAPANESE POSITION OF AVOIDING VISITS TO THE DPRK WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS GOVERNMENTAL OR OFFICIAL. THE VISIT APPEARS TO REFLECT A JAPANESE PERCEPTION THAT THE DPRK MAY BE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN REDUCING TENSIONS THIS TIME AROUND. THEY WISH TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE ANY SUCH TENDENCIES. THE ROK SEEMS TO THINK THE JAPANESE ARE BEING NAIVE AND OPPORTUNISTIC AT THE SAME TIME. (RASMUSSEN) VANCE

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