

EXCISE UNCLASSIFIED

(E855)

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79SEOUL 016336

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPG/CDR TRB Date: 9/13/93

ADPO63

( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
X EXCISE X DECLASSIFY  
( ) DENY IN PART  
( ) DELETE Non-Responsive Info  
FOIA Exemptions B1  
PA Exemptions

MR Cases Only:  
EO Citations  
TWAINSWORTH TS authority to  
X CLASSIFY as X S or ( ) C OADR  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

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ACTION SS-30

9003668

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 W  
-----052735 270231Z /73

Z 270200Z OCT 79 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1841  
SECDEF WASHDC FLASH  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC FLASH  
CIA WASHDC FLASH  
INFO/ \* \* \* \* \*  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

SECTION 01 OF 02 SEUL 16336

EXDIS

E.O. 12958: GDS 10/27/85 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M  
TAGS: PGOV:PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ACTING PRESIDENT

- ENTIRE TEXT.
- I CALLED ON ACTING PRESIDENT CHOI KYU-HA AT HIS RESIDENCE AT 0800 OCTOBER 27. I EXPRESSED MY CONDOLENCES OVER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT PARK WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ON THE RADIO JUST SHORTLY BEFORE.
- ACTING PRESIDENT PROVIDED FOLLOWING REVIEW OF EVENTS

EXDIS REVIEW

( ) A Caption removed;  
transferred to O/FADRC

( ) B Transferred to O/FADRC  
with additional access  
controlled by S/S

( ) C Caption and custody  
retained by S/O

Classified by: Elijah Kelly Jr  
Date: 4-22-93 19

P  
B1 A3  
Excluded from  
S/S

UNCLASSIFIED

B1 A3

UNCLASSIFIED



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HE SAID THE CABINET MET AT 11:15 P.M. AND AFTER DEBATE DECIDED UPON MARTIAL LAW FOR ALL OF KOREA EXCEPT CHEJU-DO. HE MADE CLEAR INCLUSION OF CHEJU-DO WAS TO AVOID TOTAL MARTIAL LAW WHICH WOULD REQUIRE MILITARY CONTROL AND TO ALLOW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN COMMAND.

6. I INFORMED THE ACTING PRESIDENT THAT I HAD BEEN ADVISED OF UNSPECIFIED TROUBLE AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THE DETAILS AT AROUND 2:00 A.M. I COMPLEMENTED HIM ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERN-

MENT HAD HANDLED THIS MATTER SO FAR AND HAD KEPT US AWARE OF EVENTS AS THEY PROGRESSED. I REVIEWED OUR CONTACTS

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WITH WASHINGTON AND GAVE HIM THE GIST OF OUR EXCELLENT STATEMENT (WE HAD EARLIER PROVIDED COPIES OF THE STATEMENT TO ROK AND IT TOGETHER WITH THE KOREAN TRANSLATION ARRIVED AT EXACTLY THIS POINT IN OUR CONVERSATION). I TOLD HIM THAT PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON WERE STUNNED BY THE EVENTS AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN HIS EFFORTS TO LEAD THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

7. ACTING PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WOULD SHORTLY ADDRESS THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC AND THAT HIS REMARKS WERE ALREADY IN DRAFT. HE WOULD BASICALLY ASK FOR CALM AND PROPER BEHAVIOR IN ORDER THAT THE PROPER SECURITY COULD BE MAINTAINED. HE WOULD ALSO BE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED ON A NINE-DAY MOURNING PERIOD AND THEY WERE CURRENTLY THINKING OF HOLDING A STATE FUNERAL ON NOVEMBER 3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS STUDYING THE QUESTION OF INVITING FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND.

8. [



9. I TOLD THE ACTING PRESIDENT I REALIZED THE DIFFICUL-

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
-----052745 270228Z /82

Z 270200Z OCT 79 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TOHTUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1842  
SECDEF WASHDC FLASH  
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC FLASH  
CIA WASHDC FLASH  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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AND WAS AWARE THAT THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY CRITICAL TIME FOR  
THE REPUBLIC. HE ADDED THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND THE  
CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE ALL PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT TO THE  
GOVERNMENT.

11. IN CONCLUSION THE ACTING PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS  
INTENTION TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH ME DURING THE COMING

DAYS EITHER PERSONALLY OR THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTER

WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONVERSATION. HE PLEDGED TO  
DO HIS BEST TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND TO APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE  
TO UNITE IN THIS TIME OF TROUBLE.

12. COMMENT: APART FROM WEARINESS AND GREAT DISTRESS  
OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH, CHOI IS TRANSPARENTLY  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF THE BURDEN SUDDENLY THRUST  
UPON HIM. I SPOKE TO HIM QUITE FRANKLY ABOUT THE  
IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY AND THE NEED FOR MILITARY  
COHESION, AND MY COMMENTS CLEARLY REFLECTED HIS THOUGHTS.

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WITH CHOI AND WITH ALL OFFICIALS WITH AZOM WE HAVE BEEN  
IN CONTACT THESE PAST FEW HOURS WE ARE GOING OUT OF OUR  
WAY TO URGE THAT THEY TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL SOME  
OF THE POLITICAL WOUNDS INFLICTED IN THE ROK DURING  
THE PAST FEW MONTHS. GLEYSTZYN

SECRET

EXDIS REVIEW

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by Egan Kelly Jr

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