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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236550

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/3/87 (SCHROEDER, N.)

TAGS: KS, PINT

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREA: PRESIDENT CHUN'S "DEMOCRATIC
WELFARE" SOCIETY AND PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF A RECENTLY PUBLISHED
INR ASSESSMENTS AND RESEARCH INTELLIGENCE REPORT DRAFTED
BY INR/EAP, C. KENNETH QUINONES. THE FULL REPORT WILL BE
SENT TO YOU BY POUCH.

2. SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT CHUN DOO HWAN IS STRIVING TO
ESTABLISH A "DEMOCRATIC WELFARE" SOCIETY. HE WANTS TO
ADAPT SELECTED WESTERN DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES TO KOREA'S
AUTHORITARIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH SPRINGS MAINLY FROM
KOREA'S CONFUCIAN CULTURAL TRADITION. CHUN HOPES TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE A NEW SYNTHESIS DURING HIS SEVEN-YEAR
PRESIDENTIAL TERM, CREATING A DURABLE POLITICAL ORDER
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WHICH IS LED BY A STRONG PRESIDENT WHO IS RESPONSIVE TO
THE PUBLIC'S NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS. IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS
HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE TOWARD REFINING THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS, ESTABLISHING A MORE COOPERATIVE NATIONAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 20 JUN 2005 200404810

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ASSEMBLY, AND CREATING NEW POLITICAL PARTIES. BEFORE
CHUN CAN CLAIM SUCCESS, HOWEVER, HE MUST ALSO REVIVE THE

ECONOMY AND, ULTIMATELY, ARRANGE FOR THE PEACEFUL
TRANSFER OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY. FAILURE IN EITHER
REGARD COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS INSTABILITY AND GIVE NORTH
KOREA AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVADE THE SOUTH. YY HAIG

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