

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

E3

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 STATE 237738
ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 EA-10 DODE-00 NSAE-00
HA-06 SIG-03 ICAE-00 SP-02 /043 R

DRAFTED BY INR/EAP:DWELTY:DG
APPROVED BY INR/RCRS:NSCHROEDER

-----340126 050829Z /22

R 042040Z SEP 81
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237738

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/4/87 (SCHROEDER, N.)

TAGS: KS, PORS, SEDU, PGOV

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREA: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO STUDENT
OPPOSITION ROLE

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

2. STUDENT OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT
CHUN DOO HWAN REMAINS THE GREATEST IMMEDIATE THREAT TO
POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. TRADITION-
ALLY DEVOTED TO A ROLE AS THE "NATION'S CONSCIENCE" IN
RESISTING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION AND REPRESSION, STUDENTS
HAVE CATALYZED THE OVERTHROW OF TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE PAST
20 YEARS. THEY REMAIN THE LEAST LIKELY AMONG DISSIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 237738

ELEMENTS--INCLUDING OTHER INTELLECTUALS, WORKERS, JOURNAL-
ISTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, AND POLITICIANS--TO BE AMENABLE TO
CHUN'S ATTEMPTS TO ENLIST COOPERATION WITH HIS "NEW ERA"
POLICY.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

3. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF CHUN'S FIFTH REPUBLIC THUS IS TO ESTABLISH AN ATMOSPHERE OF DIALOGUE AND RESPONSIVENESS TO REPLACE THE CONFRONTATIONAL MOOD THAT CHARACTERIZED THE LATTER YEARS OF THE LATE-PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE'S ADMINISTRATION AND THE SUBSEQUENT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. CHUN'S BLUEPRINT FOR ACHIEVING THIS GOAL IS TWO-PRONGED:

--A PROGRAM OF REFORM DESIGNED TO DEFUSE AND RESOLVE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BEFORE THEY BECOME UNMANAGEABLE, AND

--A SYSTEM OF TIGHT CONTROLS OVER OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES.

4. THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN LARGELY SUCCESSFUL THUS FAR IN CONTAINING STUDENT PROTESTS AND PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FOR STUDENT CAUSES. DETERIORATION IN THE ECONOMY OR ANY SIGNIFICANT SHIFT BY THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD A MORE RESTRICTIVE AND DICTATORIAL STYLE, HOWEVER, COULD GENERATE A DESTABILIZING COALITION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND OTHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. THIS DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

N VVZCZ

UNCLASSIFIED