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UNCLASSIFIED
FM SEOUL 260730Z MAY 80
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 152 CF 26 MAY

MY TELNO. 150: INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTIFIED US LAST NIGHT THAT BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION IN KWANGJU WE SHOULD TELL OUR NATIONALS IN THE KWANGJU AREA TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
2. IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION THIS MORNING THAT THERE ARE IN FACT FOUR BRITISH CITIZENS IN KWANGJU, NONE OF WHOM ARE REGISTERED WITH US AS BEING RESIDENT THERE AND TWO OF WHOM ARE ONLY TEMPORARY VISITORS TO KOREA. THE LATEST INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE FROM KOREANS WHO HAVE MANAGED TO LEAVE KWANGJU IS, THAT AS OF SATURDAY, THEY ARE ALL SAFE AND WELL.
3. THEY ARE WORKING AT THE CHON BANG TEXTILE COMPANY. ONE MR. DVID CARTER WORKS FOR A BELGIAN COMPANY, PICNOL WEAVING. WE HAVE ASKED THE COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SEOUL TO INFORM THEIR BELGIAN HEAD OFFICE THAT MR. CARTER IS SAFE. THE OTHER THREE, MR. AND MRS. DONALD CLOUGH AND MR. JACK SHUTTLEWORTH, WORK FOR PLATT-SACO-LOWELL. PLATT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SEOUL HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THEIR HEAD OFFICE THAT THEY ARE ALSO SAFE. WE HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THEY ARE IN ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER.
4. THERE HAVE BEEN NO COMMUNICATIONS WITH KWANGJU SINCE THE MIDDLE OF LAST WEEK AND SO IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THESE FOUR DIRECT AND TELL THEM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE. HOWEVER, THE TELEPHONES IN KWANGJU ITSELF ARE WORKING AND THE AMERICANS HAVE ARMY LIAISON OFFICERS IN THE VICINITY WHO ARE ABLE TO CONTACT PEOPLE IN KWANGJU. THEY HAVE KINDLY AGREED TO TRY AND TELEPHONE THE FOUR AND TELL THEM TO LEAVE THE AREA IF THEY JUDGE IT SAFE TO DO SO. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS WE HAVE TO LEAVE IT TO PEOPLE'S INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT WHETHER OR NOT TO MOVE SINCE WE CAN HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE SITUATION IS ON THE GROUND AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME.

/ 5. THERE ARE

5. THERE ARE ALSO SOME TEN TO TWELVE IRISH PRIESTS IN KWANGJU, HALF OF WHOM ARE COLUMBANS AND THE OTHERS MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF GOD, WHICH RUNS A HOSPITAL THERE. THE AMERICANS HAVE ALREADY CONTACTED THEM AND INFORMED THEM THAT OUR ADVICE IS TO LEAVE BUT THE PRIESTS HAVE ELECTED TO STAY PUT IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR PARISHIONERS AND PATIENTS.

6. PLEASE INFORM CONSULAR DEPARTMENT.

BATES

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TO IMMEDIATE FCC

TELEGRAM NUMBER 150 OF 26 MAY

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, TOKYO, AND MODUK (FOR DI 4)

MY TELNO. 148: INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION

1. AFTER TWO RELATIVELY QUIET DAYS THE SITUATION IN KWANGJU DETERIORATED YESTERDAY, PROBABLY BECAUSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE AUTHORITIES AND THE ACTIVISTS HAD BROKEN DOWN. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN ANY DEFINITE INFORMATION FROM KWANGJU BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A SMALL GROUP, POSSIBLY NUMBERING A FEW HUNDRED, HAVE REFUSED TO COME TO TERMS AND MAY BE IMPOSING THEIR WISHES ON THE REST OF THE INHABITANTS BY FORCE. THERE ARE REPORTS AS YET UNCONFIRMED THAT THE ARMY HAVE TAKEN THE ONLY OPTION NOW OPEN TO THEM AND BEGUN TO MOVE IN TOWARDS THE CITY CENTRE. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN ONLY SPORADIC FIRING.

2. KIM JAE KYU AND THE FOUR OTHERS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THEIR PART IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT PARK WERE HANGED ON 24 MAY. THE EXECUTIONS HAD BEEN FULLY EXPECTED AND WERE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED AS BEING JUST AND INEVITABLE.

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