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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

#1/27 May 1980

APPROVED FOR RELEASE SPOT COMMENTARY: South Korea Situation Report  
DATE: AUG 2002 (Information as of 1330, 27 May 1980)

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1. Security Situation

The situation in Kwangju is calm following the military operation today that quashed rebel opposition and returned the city to government control. As of 2200 hours Korea time there were no reports of disturbances.

[REDACTED] The press reports that the special forces troops who carried out the assault have been replaced by regular infantry units. [REDACTED]

In Seoul, President Choi Kyu Hah ordered formation of a Kwangju relief and rehabilitation committee. Food, medicines, and other relief supplies reportedly are moving into the city.

[REDACTED] The information minister released a statement offering apologies and condolences to the people of Kwangju for their suffering, and the defense minister has issued a message of consolation to the populace. [REDACTED]

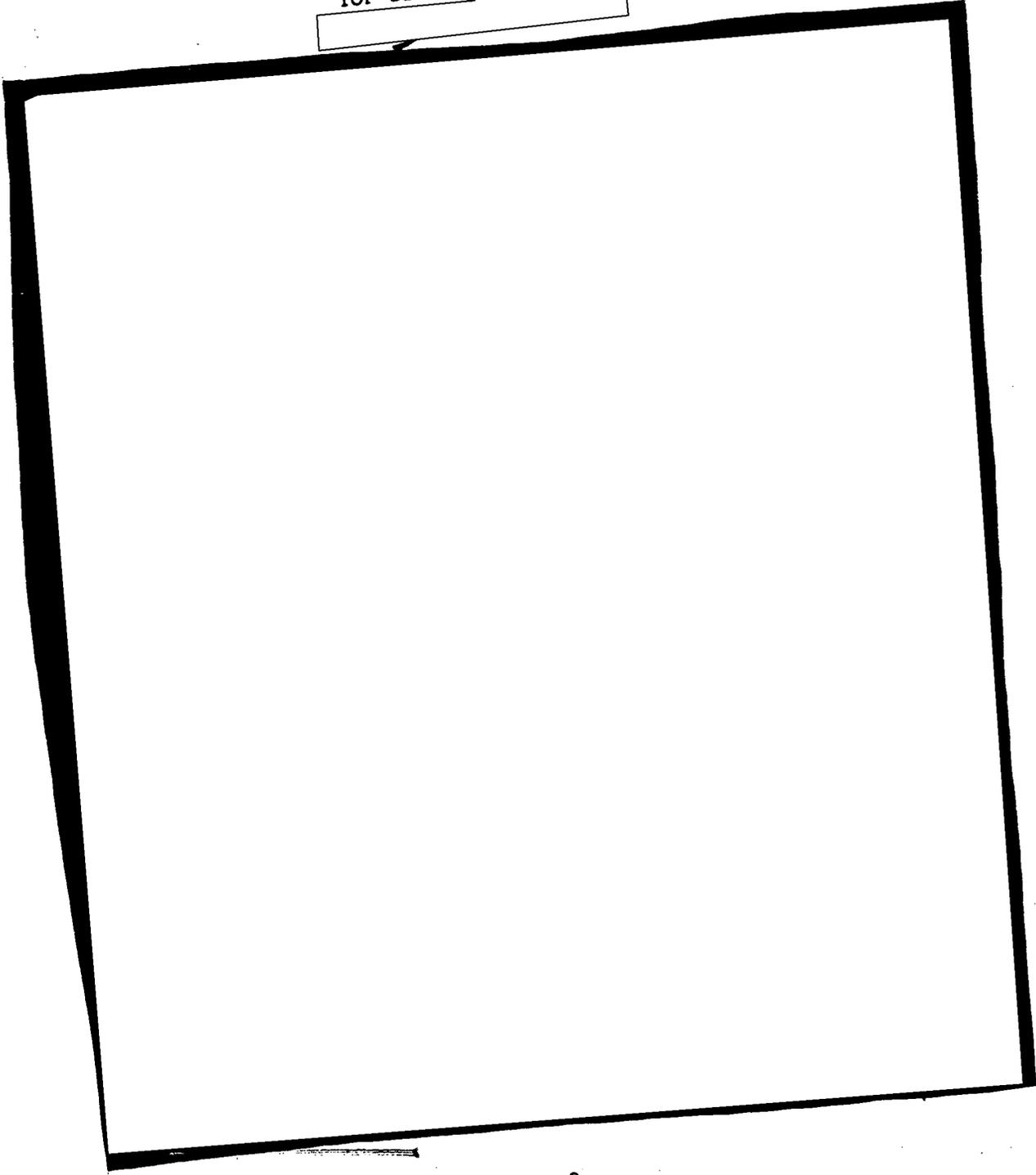
[REDACTED]

Elsewhere, Seoul was quiet as rumored student demonstrations failed to materialize. [REDACTED]

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III. North Korea

North Korea has not yet commented on the occupation of Kwangju by the South Korean army. On 25 May, Pyongyang city held a rally to denounce the extension of martial law in South Korea. Commentary by the speakers followed along the lines of the KCNA statement on 23 May (see Spot Commentary, 23 May 1980). Pyongyang's clandestine "Voice of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification" has been encouraging the rebels in Kwangju to hold on to their weapons, warning that compromise with the Martial Law Command means death for the "struggle for democracy."