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SITUATION REPORT

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea is calm following the death of President Pak Chong-hui yesterday afternoon, and an orderly transition of power has taken place with Prime Minister Choe Kyu-ha acting as President until a successor can be chosen. The armed forces and cabinet are working together to assure political stability.

Pak's death occurred at a dinner party with a few of his closest advisers. Accounts of the incident vary, but it appears fairly clear that Pak was killed when two of his key security advisers exchanged shots, reportedly after a heated argument. Army security officers have taken the director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency into custody.

The extension of martial law to all provinces but one has allowed the cabinet to maintain civilian control.

Both Choe and the martial law administrator--Chief of the General Staff Chong Sung-hwa--were longtime trusted associates of Pak, and the immediate transfer of power does not portend any changes in South Korean policy. Pak's permanent successor will likely come from either the military or the ruling Democratic Republican Party, rather than from the opposition New Democratic Party which had attacked Pak's administration.

Choe is not a strong figure and is expected to serve only in a transitional capacity. While South Korean law calls for electoral college selection of a new president within 90 days, the cabinet and Army will

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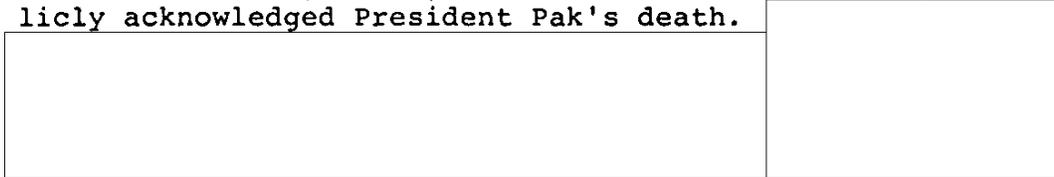
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likely make a consensus decision on a candidate somewhat earlier. 

North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union have publicly acknowledged President Pak's death.



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