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27 MAY 80

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SITUATION REPORTS

SOUTH KOREA

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After nine days of armed rebellion, the city of Kwangju fell to Army units early this morning.

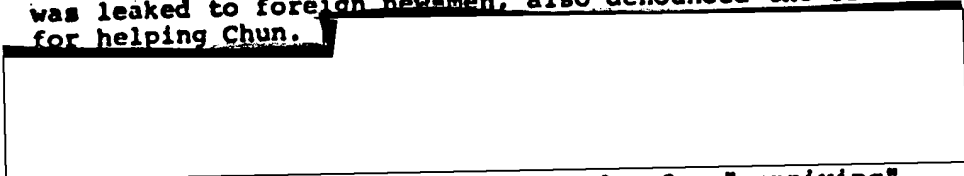
Government troops entered the city in strength before dawn and quickly regained control of the provincial government building. Initial reports indicate that casualties were light--two soldiers and 13 militants killed--and some 300 rioters were arrested. The city appears to be returning to normal, although there are press reports of continued sporadic firing as troops make house-to-house searches.

Authorities in Seoul are taking a conciliatory public line toward Kwangju. The martial law commander has ordered the Army to show leniency, a government spokesman has expressed deep regret over the affair, and President Choe Kyu-ha has directed the Prime Minister to form a committee for the relief and rehabilitation of Kwangju.

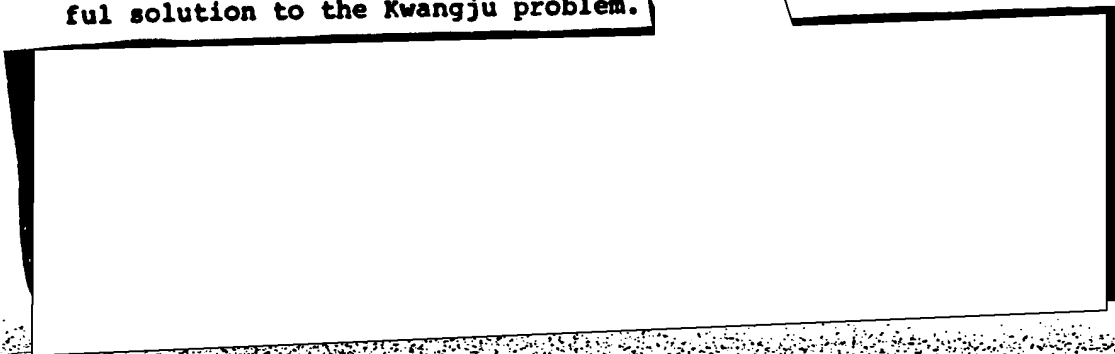
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The opposition National Alliance for Democracy and Unification issued a statement yesterday blaming General Chun's quest for power and overreaction to the 18 May demonstrations in Kwangju for the "ruinous" state of affairs in the country. The statement, which was leaked to foreign newsmen, also denounced the US for helping Chun.



China criticized the US yesterday for "conniving" with Seoul "to suppress" the South Korean people. The charge, which appeared in a *People's Daily* commentary, was the first Chinese attempt to link the US with the current crisis in South Korea. The commentary noted, however, that Washington had urged Seoul to seek a peaceful solution to the Kwangju problem.



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