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PAK LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON AMID ELECTION PREPARATIONS

FR Seoul: [Foreign Ministry]
TO Washington: [All Mission Chiefs]

25 Nov 63 0930Z

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Msg Nr: --

1. Chairman PAK CHO'NG HUI arrived in the U.S. to attend President KENNEDY's funeral ceremonies after leaving Kimpo airport at 1409 hours on 24 November. Prior to his departure Chairman PAK said, "Regardless of how busy I am, I have decided to go and personally attend the funeral services, since it would be better for me to represent the people and express their condolences." Chairman PAK, who arrived in the U.S. for a five-day period, was accompanied by a party of six. (SCNR Public Information Officer LEE HU RAK, CIA Deputy Director SIN CHIK SU, Foreign Ministry Protocol Chief CHO'NG TO SUN, Commander of the Chairman's Guard PAK CHONG HO, the Chairman Protocol Secretary CHO SANG HO and personal physician CHI HONG CH'ANG). [PAK] said, "At the present while I am in the U.S., I have no plans to meet individually with any high ranking U.S. officials, including President JOHNSON. I think that I will return immediately after the funeral ceremonies. I have no plans to meet with important figures in the Japanese Government while in Japan." (Kyo 'ngnyang Sinmun).

2. As for the Third Republic's National Assembly General Elections, the heated election campaign, which stretched over a 30-day period, has come to an end, and from 0700 hours to 1700 hours on 26 November 13,344,022 voters will exercise their right to vote. 131 regional representatives and 44 nation-wide representatives are to be elected. 12 political parties have placed a total of 982 candidates for the judgment of the people--831 regional candidates and 151 national candidates. Whether or not

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we will have political stability will be decided by the results of these elections. Through its election activities during the 30 days, the party in office, the Democratic Republican Party, has appeared for a guarantee of a stabilizing force in the future to carry out its firm policies. The flood of opposition parties, including the Civil Rule Party, opened a fierce struggle to block the guarantee of a majority policy by the party in power under the slogan "Check government dictatorship." In their general election campaign they did not confront the [Democratic Republican Party] policy and they began an attack which offered no counterproposals. The Central Election Management Committee has made every preparation to manage this historic day's election cleanly and fairly. When voting has been completed at the 7400 polling places throughout the country it has been decided that the ballot counting will begin immediately at the 196 vote counting stations. It is felt that the results of the elections will be fully confirmed on the afternoon of 27 November. (Seoul Sinmun)

3. According to what was learned from the Central Election Management Committee on the afternoon of 25 November, the number of voters in the 26 November National Assembly general elections has confirmed as 13,344,022. The total number of absentee voters was set at 373,701 persons. The national population as of today is 26,278,025. The number of voters represents 50.76 percent of the population. (Seoul Sinmun)

4. On the morning of 25 November Prosecutor General CHO'NG CH'ANG UN told a press conference, "It is extremely regrettable that the disclosures of public officials' election violations in such places as Mokp'o, Hamp'yo'ng, P'aju, and P'yo'ngt'alk were originated by a number of overly loyal officials who disregarded the real meaning of the Government's pledge that the elections would be unprecedentedly clean. "He went on to say, "It is a fact that the P'aju - Hamp'yo'ng case had already taken shape and the people knew everything; however, because the Mokp'o Police Superintendent said that he alone had taken part in the Mokp'o case, evidence on the Police Superintendent is now being collected so that public action may be taken. This not expected to extend

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beyond the Police Superintendent. It is extremely regrettable that the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Director of the Police Bureau took the moral responsibility for this matter and resigned. I hope that these cases will serve as a warning to overly loyal public servants." (Seoul Sinmun)

5. KANG KI CH'O'N, the Chairman of the SCNR Legislation and Justice Sub-Committee said on the morning of 26 November that steps would be taken to lift restrictions on 266 persons including former President SYNGHAM RHEE and former Prime Minister CHANG MYO'N, who had been constrained under political law. Chairman KANG said that the SCNR Home Affairs Committee is now giving final consideration to a list of persons. He said that in accordance with the instructions of Chairman PAK these persons would be freed no later than 17 December. (Kyo'ngnyang Sinmun)

6. On the morning of 25 November Democratic Republican Party spokesman SO' IN SO'K stated, "Prior to election day the opposition parties have been acting to disclose a plan for election violations by public officials." The following are examples of this.

a. With two documents drafted by KIM YO'NG SIK an Andong City Hall official the Civil Rule Party is scheduled to make two disclosures of election violations by public officials.

b. He said, "The Civil Rule Party is planning to make disclosures by two unidentified officials in addition to the above-mentioned KIM YO'NG SIK." He maintained that it was evident that most of the above facts were brought about by bribes and were untrue. (Kyo'ngnyang Sinmun)

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