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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7826
INFO RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7463
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6475
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3026
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//RSA
BT
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RELEASED IN PART B1,50X1 HUM,B6

Classification Extended on : 10/12/2012 - Class: SECRET
- Reason: 50X1 - HUM

RSA FOR WOON
SEOUL FOR POL MINCOUNS MINTON
LONDON FOR LARRY ROBINSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINS, PINR, PREL, KN, GE
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. DEFECTOR REPORTED TO HAVE DIED IN
NORTH KOREAN PRISON IN 1986

1. SECRET -- ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS CABLE CONTAINS AN ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARA 8.
3. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE REPORTED DEATH IN A NORTH KOREAN PRISON IN 1986 OF A U.S. CITIZEN WHO ALLEGEDLY DEFECTED FROM THE U.S. MILITARY IN GERMANY IN 1980. EMBASSY REQUESTS CONFIRMATION WHETHER OR NOT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US (DETAILS BELOW) TRACKS WITH ANY OUTSTANDING CASES. END SUMMARY.

4. [REDACTED] INFORMED US NOVEMBER 26 OF
INFORMATION [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THAT A U.S. CITIZEN, WHO
ALLEGEDLY DEFECTED FROM U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY IN 1980,
HAD DIED IN A NORTH KOREAN PRISON CAMP IN 1986. THE
ALLEGED DEFECTOR -- KOREAN NAME CHONG IN-SIK (THE FIRST
TWO CHARACTERS OF THE NAME IN CHINESE ARE STC 6774 AND

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Steve Blodgett, Senior Reviewer

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0088, THIRD CHARACTER NOT AVAILABLE) -- WAS THE SON OF AN AMERICAN FATHER AND KOREAN MOTHER AND WAS 27-28 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF DEATH. THE SOURCE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SURMISED THAT THE KOREAN NAME
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USED BY THE DECEASED CAME FROM THE KOREAN MOTHER OF THE DECEASED.

5. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMANT, AFTER DEFECTING IN GERMANY IN 1980, THE AMERICAN TRAVELLED VIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND RUSSIA TO PYONGYANG WHERE HE ARRIVED IN OCTOBER 1980. UPON ARRIVAL IN NORTH KOREA, THE AMERICAN WAS ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED IN A SPECIAL PRISON RESERVED FOR SENSITIVE PRISONERS. THE PRISON WAS LOCATED AT SONG HELI (PHONETIC), ABOUT 50 KM NORTH EAST OF PYONGYANG. THE INFORMANT REPORTED THAT THE AMERICAN DIED ON JANUARY 1, 1986, FOLLOWING A BEATING BY NORTH KOREAN GUARDS.

6. THE INFORMANT ALSO PROVIDED [REDACTED] WITH A LIST OF THE PRISONERS THAT HAD BEEN HELD AT THE CAMP [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (ALL MATERIAL POUCHED TO EAP/CM UNDER REGISTRY NO. 9360347). THOSE IMPRISONED AT THE CAMP REPORTEDLY INCLUDED A JAPANESE AND A NUMBER OF ETHNIC-KOREAN JAPANESE WHO HAD GONE TO NORTH KOREA AND BEEN ARRESTED. THIS INFORMATION (INCLUDED IN POUCHED MATERIAL) WAS ALSO SHARED BY THE [REDACTED] WITH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE.

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7. [REDACTED] HAS ASKED THAT WE INFORM HIM THROUGH [REDACTED] WHETHER U.S. MILITARY RECORDS INDICATE THAT SUCH A CASE EXISTS, AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE NEXT OF KIN HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION. [REDACTED]

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8. ACTION REQUEST FOR WASHINGTON -- EMBASSY REQUESTS CONFIRMATION OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION REPORTED TRACKS WITH ANY KNOWN CASE OF A MISSING U.S. SERVICEMAN. THE [REDACTED] ASKED TO BE INFORMED IF THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE. WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, [REDACTED] MAY PUBLICIZE THIS CASE.

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9. FYI FOR SEOUL: [REDACTED] WILL BE IN SEOUL ON NOVEMBER 29. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
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IN NORTH KOREA. HE PLANS TO CONTACT EMBASSY SEOUL POLITICAL SECTION AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN SOUTH KOREA. HALLFORD

END OF MESSAGE

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