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PARK SLAIN

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SEOUL — President Park Chung Hee, 62, authoritarian ruler of South Korea for 18 years, was shot to death Friday night by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency at a dinner party.

Five other people were killed in the shooting, including Park's chief bodyguard, a government spokesman announced Saturday. The intelligence chief, Kim Jae Kyu, was arrested.

At an emergency pre-dawn Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Choi Khy Hah, known as a moderate, was named to succeed Park as president.

The State Department quickly issued a statement: "The United States government wishes to make clear that it will react strongly in accordance with its treaty obligations to the Republic of Korea to any external attempt to exploit the situation in the Republic of Korea."

U.S. Ambassador William Gleysteen called on acting president Choi Saturday morning, expressed the American government's condolences and continuing cooperation, a U.S. official said.

Gleysteen also addressed American citizens in South Korea, urged "all Americans to cooperate in avoiding any unnecessary difficulty. I suggest that you curtail out of town travel for the present."

The U.S. military command in Seoul, said its soldiers, civilian employees and dependents should limit off-post travel "to official business and essential needs only."

"U.S. military activities will continue as normal," the command said.

Meanwhile, Col. John Klose, an 8th Army spokesman in Seoul, said "as a precautionary measure the readiness posture of American forces in South Korea has been increased."

Defense Department officials in Washington, said the increased readiness posture does not extend to other American forces in the Pacific.

President Carter was informed of Park's death before going to Camp David for the weekend. The National Security Council convened an emergency session.

In Seoul, government tanks surrounded the sprawling presidential palace, known as the "Blue House," which is located in the northern section of the city.

The teeming capital of 5.5 million people was quiet following the killing that ended Park's reign, which had come under increasing challenge

KCIA chief named as killer of 6 in party shooting spree Choi named ROK president



Slain leader

PARK CHUNG HEE, South Korea's strongarm ruler for 18 years, was gunned down Friday night.



New president

PRESIDENT CHOI KYU HAH has taken over the reigns of power. He is expected to follow Park's policies.



KCIA chief

KIM JAE KYU, head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, was said to have shot his boss and five others.

from students and others who demonstrated in two cities last week.

Chief government spokesman Kim Seong Jin, minister of culture and information, gave the following account of the shooting:

Park and an undetermined number of other guests attended a dinner party hosted by the Korean intelligence director Friday night in a KCIA dining room in Kung Jung Dong, a district near the presidential palace.

During the dinner, an argument broke out between Kim and Park's chief bodyguard, Cha Ji Chul.

Kim started shooting. The shots

mortally wounded Park, his bodyguard and four others.

Park was pronounced dead about 7:50 p.m. (6:50 a.m. EDT) while being rushed to a military hospital.

Park had attended the dedication of a dam near Taejon, 100 miles south of the capital of Seoul, Friday. He returned to the presidential mansion by helicopter and then left the mansion for his dinner at the KCIA headquarters.

It was not certain whether Kim had intended to kill Park or was just firing wildly.

The confirmation of Park's death

followed two hours of worldwide confusion over his fate.

At one point, reports said Park had been in a "very big accident." The initial government announcement said cryptically "something happened to President Park."

When asked if the shooting had been accidental, spokesman Kim said, "I cannot go beyond what has been said."

Kim said the killer was being held by martial law authorities.

The government announced it would hold a state funeral for Park (Continued on Page 24, Col. 2)

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