

No. 605

DIVISION OF COMMERCE

American Embassy,

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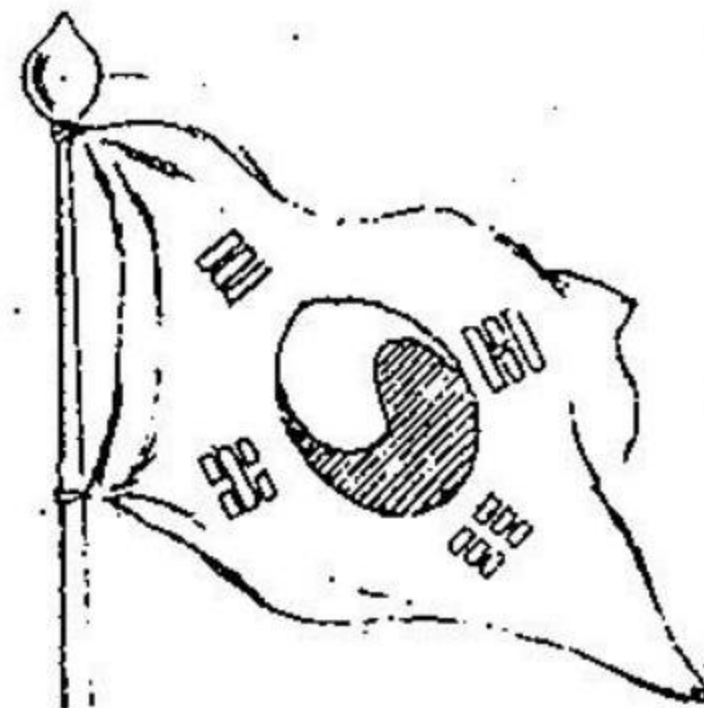
Seoul, Korea, October 1, 1949

DIVISION OF

Subject: Transmittal of Statistical Summation No. 5

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

STATISTICAL SUMMATION



NO. 8

AUGUST

1949

TABLE 15

Government Summer Grain Collection, by Provinces, Republic of Korea,
1947 through 31 August 1949,
(metric tons)

Province	1947		1948		1949	
	Total Col- lection	% of Quota Collected	Total Col- lection a/	% of Quota Collected	Total Col- lection b/	% of Quota Collected
Kyonggi-do	9,239	112.1	8,582	105.7	7,588	89.2
Chungchong-pukto	6,159	116.5	6,807	101.9	7,189	113.0
Chungchong-namdo	9,119	91.1	8,490	104.9	8,950	108.5
Cholla-pukto	13,481	100.3	13,995	113.1	8,963	66.0
Cholla-namdo	22,940	97.5	19,738	92.3	19,126	98.4
Kyongsang-pukto	16,435	100.1	20,757	103.0	16,105	95.4
Kyongsang-namdo	19,892	102.7	22,195	106.8	19,639	101.1
Kangwon-do	2,442	103.6	2,103	101.1	2,313	104.9
Cheju-do	460	18.8	113	4.3	10	0.0
Total	100,217	99.2	102,780	100.5	89,873	94.9

a/ Final collection data as of 10 November 1948.

b/ Collections started 2 July 1949; expected to be completed first week in September.

SOURCE: Korea Food Company (operating agency for Food Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).

1949년 9월 정치관계 요약(1949. 10. 7)

Despatch 621 7.2

American Embassy

CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, Korea October 7, 1949

Subject: Summary of Political Affairs of the Republic of
Korea, September, 1949.

The Ambassador has the honor to transmit a summary of political affairs of the Republic of Korea for September, 1949, in continuation of Despatch No. 562, September 13, 1949. The developments of the month are briefly summarized as follows: during September there were no major changes in the trend of affairs of the Republic, although both guerrillas and security forces in southern areas showed increased activity. On the international scene, the number of states recognizing the Republic reached twenty-two. President Rhee made several comments at press conferences concerning the proposed Pacific Pact, but its status remained unchanged. The disappearance of an American-owned steamship loaned to the Republic prompted a note from Washington to Moscow, asking that the vessel be permitted to proceed to her South Korean destination with the two American advisers on board. Five United States Congressmen visited Korea from September 8th to 10th. CHOUGH Pyong Ok was named Korea's chief representative to the fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. On the domestic front, the Korean National Assembly, reconvened on September 12th, passed ten bills including needed tax legislation, and overrode the Presidential veto of the Court Organization Bill. Several important personages were on trial during September, including ex-Ministers Louise YIM (found innocent) and CHO Pong An, ex-Property Custodian LIM Pyung Hyuk, the alleged killers of Mrs. Ethel UNDERWOOD and Police Captain KIM Ho Ik, and two Assemblymen. The National Society was declared officially in process of becoming a semi-governmental but non-political agency. Raids by guerrillas continued in the southern provinces, and four hundred prisoners broke out of a prison at Mokp'o. Security forces were conducting an all-out guerrilla extermination campaign, while police rounded up more and more suspected Communists. Public protests against torture and unwarranted arrest elicited numerous official statements promising improvement. In North Korea, the Supreme People's Assembly convened for two days. The proposed North-Korean-sponsored "general election" seemed to be forgotten.

Enclosure: 1
Political Summary

<첨부분서> 목포형무소 폭동

SUMMARY OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

September, 1949

VII. Domestic Conditions

D. Mokp'o Prison Break.

Approximately four hundred inmates of the prison at Mokp'o, South Cholla Province, rioted shortly after 5 o'clock on September 14th, broke into the prison armory, and tried to escape. Fifty-three

prisoners were killed in the attempt; 353 others got away, after six prison guards were killed and nine wounded. Combined army, navy, and police forces pursued the fugitives. Army sources reported 237 of them killed, 85 captured, and 6 returned of their own accord, as of September 20th. There was some confusion as to the exact figures on escapees and casualties.³ The Director of the Penal Bureau, Department of Justice, who personally investigated the prison break, attributed it to overcrowding of prisons (as mentioned in the Political Summary for August, page 10), poor security planning, absence of some guards on detail elsewhere, and possible subversion among the guards. The fact that the escape was announced over the P'yongyang radio within a few hours of its occurrence suggested the probability of outside Communist assistance. Many of the Mokp'o inmates had participated in the Communist insurrection on Cheju Island.

Mokp'o was not the only badly overcrowded prison in Korea, and the incident there emphasized the possibility of similar occurrences elsewhere unless steps were taken to improve prison conditions. Thought was being given to segregation of political prisoners in separate establishments, and plans were going forward for the conversion of an unused factory in the Yongdunngp'o district of Seoul into a penitentiary. Owing to lack of funds and to the greater apparent urgency of catching more Communists, rather than caring for those already imprisoned, such plans for reform were proceeding at a slow pace.

3. Embassy airgram A-288, Sept. 26.

• 9월 28일 국회 회기 종료(1949. 10. 10)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Despatch 629
RESTRICTED

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

American Embassy
Korea, October 10, 1949

Noted

Subject: Closed Session of the National Assembly, September 28th.

The Ambassador has the honor to enclose ten copies of an official summary of the closed meeting of the Korean National Assembly which took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 28th.

The closed meeting of September 28th was attended by the President, virtually all Ministers and the highest ranking military and naval officers of the Republic for the purpose of hearing the reports and suggestions of various Assembly members who had visited their home districts in recent weeks. As is indicated