

Extract from Annex 7 to Field Order 55 - Military Government - 29 August 1945

Par 3 d. Freedom of religion shall be proclaimed. The freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and representative government will be encouraged to the extent that the security of the military occupation and the attainment of its objectives are not prejudiced. The dissemination of Japanese Militaristic, National Shintoistic, and ultra-nationalistic ideology and propaganda in any form will be prohibited.

A Summary of Lt. General Hodge's First Speech to the Korean People at the Civic Auditorium - 12 September 1945

General Hodge appeared at 1440 and introduced himself as a "man of the common people", born and raised on a farm. He gave a brief background of his part in the Pacific War which was followed by loud applause. He explained that he was a soldier, not a diplomat, and that he did not have full knowledge of the Allied plans for Korea but that his own mission was clearly stated. Briefly, it required him to receive the Japanese surrender and to preserve law and order until readjustment was achieved. He said also that he realized the Cairo Declaration had promised the Koreans independence "in due course". This meant that Korea would get independence as soon as a stable government was formed and that could not be accomplished in a day or a week. It would take some time. There was a noticeable lack of applause after this point had been made clear. Too rapid action could only result in chaos, a complete breakdown, and "in what you do not want."

The General continued, saying that he was glad the landing of the American troops had taken place without incident, that it appeared the Koreans were an orderly people and that he was grateful for the warmth of their welcome. He had, he said, just removed Governor Abe and not replaced him. Military Government would carry on the government of Korea. Meanwhile he needed the help of the leaders of the Korean people and felt confident he would get it. The people themselves must reduce parades and demonstrations to a minimum and must get back to work. They must keep property inviolate regardless of who owned it. General MacArthur had announced that the Korean people would have freedom of speech, press, and religion. General Hodge said he hoped they would not abuse these freedoms. He, for his part, hoped he would not need to place any but the briefest and most minor temporary restrictions on them.

There had not been time yet for him to acquire personally a knowledge of Korea's problems, but as soon as he knew a little more he wanted to meet all the leaders. He would announce, he said, from time to time when he would meet political groups and their leaders. Meanwhile, he believed it would save time if each party would prepare a written statement of the desires and

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position of the group. He also expressed the wish that those who had not had an opportunity to register at the door before the meeting would do so on the way out. He wanted to know "who you fine people are". He hoped he could count on their help in doing "our task" because what helped them also helped him. He believed Korea had a great future and enjoined them not to spoil it.

Headquarters United States Army Forces in Korea, Office of the Military Governor, Seoul, Korea. Press Release - 16 October 1945.

Item 1. To eliminate confusion in the minds of the Korean people, Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge, Commander of United States Army Forces in Korea, today defined Military Government as "A provisional government established by the United States Army, under direction of the Supreme Commander, by which the Allied Powers will govern, guide and control Korea south of 38 degrees North Latitude during the transition period between a state of Japanese domination and the establishment of a democratic government of the people, for the people and by the people."

Gen. Hodge elaborated, "Military Government is the only government in Southern Korea. It operates through the established agencies of the Government General, the provinces, the counties and the cities. The sole interest of the Military Government is the welfare of Korea and the establishing of basis for a sound government and a sound economy for Korea."

This can be done," Gen. Hodge said, "Only if all the people of Korea will obey the orders of the Military Government and cooperate with it. Failure to obey orders and failure to cooperate can only delay the date of complete independence for the nation and be the cause for punishment of those who refuse to obey or deliberately undermine the Government."

He warned, "The Military Government is backed by all the power of the Allied Forces who vanquished in war the aggressors, and oppressors of mankind. That same power is available to enforce the orders of the Allied Powers, but it is hoped that it need not be used."

"Japanese and pro-Japanese officials are being replaced with good Koreans in all levels of government as rapidly as possible. These Koreans are operating under the guidance of Army officers who are American citizens highly trained in business and government and who have volunteered to help establish stable government in occupied areas. In addition to placing capable Koreans in government positions never before held by them, the Americans are training many other Koreans for governmental positions to the end that they can establish Koreans in all official positions at all levels. They are also placing Koreans in high positions in business and commerce as rapidly as they can find those who have the capabilities for management, and are training others for this work.