

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA
Office of the Military Governor
SEOUL, KOREA

29 June 1946

Lieutenant General John R. HODGE
United States Army Forces in KOREA
APO #235

Dear General HODGE:

As you know, I have recently ordered the suspension of Military Government Ordinance #72. The suspension was directed in order to enable the Ordinance to receive further study and because it became clearly evident that the Korean people did not like it.

In earlier ordinances such as those dealing with the New Korea Company and the registration of political parties, steps have been taken to give effect to the desires of the Korean people.

I know that it is your desire and the desire of the President of the United States that Military Government in Korea be administered as democratically as possible.

Without some sort of a legislative body, it is impossible for me always to determine the wishes of the Korean people.

If it is in keeping with your policy, I suggest that there be established a Korean legislative body which could speak on behalf of, and help me to determine the wishes of, the Korean people.

The legislative body would consist of a number of members, some of whom would represent the major political parties of all shades of opinion, and some would be elected to represent the several provinces. They would have power to enact ordinances, which when approved, would have the force and effect of law. They would also have power to screen past appointments of Koreans to the more responsible jobs in Military Government and to confirm future appointments.

Gradually the body should become more and more elective in nature and would take from me more and more of the responsibilities of enacting ordinances.

The whole structure, of course, would be under the present Military Government and could in no way be considered as a separate government for South KOREA. We are aware that the present policy of the United States is firmly against the setting up of such a separate government. The body I propose would not be an independent regime but would represent the Korean people on the higher level of administration in Southern KOREA and would be a great help to me in carrying on my job as Military Governor.

Such a plan should in no way delay the establishment of the Korean provisional government contemplated by the MOSCOW Conference. On the other hand, it should provide an excellent opportunity for the Korean leaders to obtain practical experience and familiarize themselves more intimately with the serious problems that will confront them when the provisional government is formed through the Joint Commission.

Sincerely yours,

ARCHER L. LERCH
Major General, United States Army
Military Governor

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