

Unclassified

HQ 6TH INF DIV
1900I 24 August 1947

Incl #1 to G-2 Periodic Report #675, 24 August 1947

GENERAL MARSHALL'S LETTER TO MOLOTOV

13 August 1947

Dear Mr. Molotov:

In your letter of April 19, 1947, you suggested that the Joint Soviet-American Commission on Korea resume its work on May 20 in SEOUL "on the basis of an exact execution of the MOSCOW Agreement on Korea" and that the Commission should present the result of its work for the consideration of the Soviet and United States Governments in July and August, 1947. According to all reports received from the American delegation to the Joint Commission, it has been impossible for the two delegations to agree on the issue of broad consultation with Korean political parties and social organizations. This situation has continued without material change for more than one month and is a matter of great concern to the government of the United States.

You will recall that in my letter to you of May 2, I referred to your statement that the work of the Commission should be "on the basis of an exact execution of the MOSCOW Agreement" and that in order to avoid future misunderstanding I made clear my interpretation of that phrase. I pointed out that it had been the consistent and well-known position of the United States Government that "Korean representatives of democratic parties and social organizations shall not be excluded from consultation with the Commission on the formation of a provisional Korean government because of opinions they might hold or may have expressed in the past concerning the future government of their country, provided they are prepared to cooperate with the Commission". In your reply of May 7 you did not take exception of this position. You accepted as a basis for reconvening the Commission the suggestion outlined by General HODGE in his letter to General CHRISTIAKOV of December 24, 1946, which was in accordance with the United States position described above. In furtherance of this policy the American delegation to the Joint Commission has maintained that there should be the widest possible participation of Korean democratic parties and social organizations and that in such participation there shall be no restriction on freedom of expression and opinion of all Koreans. In an effort to expedite matters the U. S. Delegation has several times offered to limit oral consultations to parties and organizations with membership in excess of 1,000, or any other reasonable figure proposed by the Soviet Delegation. This proposal, however, has not been accepted by the Soviet Delegation.

The United States Government believes that, in justice to the Korean people whose hopes of independence have been so long postponed, there cannot be further delay. It is the desire therefore of this government that by August 21, 1947, the Joint Commission report the status of its deliberations so that each government may immediately consider what further steps may usefully be taken to achieve the aims of the MOSCOW Agreement, namely the establishment of an independent, united Korea which can take its proper place among the United Nations.

I am providing copies of this message to the Governments of China and the United Kingdom.

I have the honor to be, etc.....

Incl #1

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