

Confidential

From: 130800/I Oct 47
To : 140800/I Oct 47

Headquarters, USAFIK
Seoul, Korea
1000/I 14 October 1947

No. #658

MAPS: KOREA, 1/250,000
Eastern ASIA, 1/1,000,000

1. OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

None.

2. NON-OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

None.

3. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

a. Sabotage - None reported

b. Espionage

Smuggler Stays In Business By Providing Russians With Intelligence

Illustrative of the dangers of smuggling is the recent report of a smuggler who operates between South KOREA and DAIREN on approval from Russian authorities in the Manchurian port because he carries items of intelligence for the communists. (CIC S/I, 10 Oct. B-3)

c. Terrorism

(1) Leftist Beaten To Death

LEE To Hoi, 35-year-old member of the left-wing CHOSUN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ALLIANCE was beaten to death in CHINJU (1108-1356) by three members of the right-wing NORTHWEST KOREAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION on 05 October. CHO Hyung Tae, head of the NORTHWEST branch in SANCHON (1108-1342), who initiated the beating, and his two accomplices are being held by police. (6th Division P/R #721)

(2) 20 Masked Leftists Beat Rightist Official

Thirty black-masked leftists invaded the home of the vice-president of the IMSIL (1027-1407) branch of the right-wing KOREAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY on 06 October and beat the rightist official with clubs. The official was later moved to the OSU-RI (1031-1397) hospital. (6th Division P/R #721)

d. Secret Organizations - None reported

e. Communications Interceptions

(1) Mail Interceptions

(a) POHANG Leftists In Smiles

A mystified letter writer tells a Legislative Assembly official in a 05 October letter that leftists in POHANG-ERP, KYONGSANG-PUKTO, "have recently been in good humor". Puzzled as to the reason, the letter-writer guesses, "I don't know why; but there must be something to make them optimistic". (SEO/5629)

COMMENT: The reported good humor of these leftists may be the outward showing of friendship for everyone which they have been ordered to display (see par 4b/6/, P/R #653). These leftists, who have very little to be happy about in a political way except for a possible American withdrawal, were recently

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 745070

Confidential

told, via party directives, to associate with and do favors for their neighbors so as to create goodwill for the left-wing.

(b) Islanders Forced To Join Right-Wing Party

Island residents of CHEJU-ERP, CHEJU-DO were recently ordered by police and the local right-wing KOREAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY to assemble at the village schoolhouse where they were forced to sign membership cards in the KIP, according to a postcard report made by a resident of the village to a SEOUL friend. (SEO/5630)

(c) PUSAN Merchant Laments Poor Trading; Has Business Eye on American Billets

A PUSAN business man writes his SEOUL office that the steamship SAN CHYAWN ROMO has returned to CHINA after a three-months trading tour to KOREA. The ship's reports show that trading with KOREA has been a "perfect failure". "On the basis of this venture", the PUSAN merchant tells, "future trading with KOREA will be discontinued because expenses incurred exceeded profits made". He further states, "KOREA's economy is such that whatever that country might offer traders it will be hardly worth while bothering for".

This letter writer says he may have a chance to buy 30 European-style houses which are now "property of the 6th Infantry Division, being used as American billets". He claims that an interpreter, TCHWAI Chawng Soo, who is employed by the 6th Division will let him know when this property is ready for sale. (PUS/1869)

(d) North Korean Joins NORTHWEST Group To Get Revenge Against Leftists

A North Korean who has just made his way south of the border writes a PUSAN friend that he has joined the right-wing NORTHWEST KOREAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION and will work hard "in getting revenge for the sufferings I endured in North KOREA". (PUS/1873)

(2) Radiogram Interceptions

(a) Requests Go To UNITED NATIONS From RHEE

Dr. RHEE Syng Man's SEOUL headquarters has radioed Louise YIM, RHEE's self-appointed representative to the UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY, to submit a request to the UN which asks for the following: (1) Admission of KOREA to UN now, (2) to admit a Korean delegation to UN conferences which is chosen "minus foreign interference", (3) a guarantee for the territorial, political, economic and administrative sovereignty of KOREA, (4) a declaration which will void all agreements, contracts, or concessions to individuals or nations by former kings or governments, (5) abolishment of mail and cable censorship in KOREA, (6) creation of a supervisory board, including Korean representatives, which would watch election procedure and "prevent foreign interference, frauds or unlawful methods", and (7) the disbandment and disarmament of the North Korean army. RHEE also says that he has an election in progress in South KOREA which he will call off if the UN formulates an election plan for all of KOREA.

4. CIVIL RELATIONS

(a) Disturbances

(1) Korean Pacific Press Company Employees Out On Strike

Employees of the Korean Pacific Press company in SEOUL have gone on strike in an effort to get the company's managing editor and chief accountant discharged. Between 60 and 70 employees are involved but only a few are instigating the strike. In the initial part of the strike the demand was also being made that three discharged employees be reinstated. Of these three employees one had been fired for stealing office equipment from the company, a second was only on a month's trial and had not been satisfactory and the third had put out issuing misinformation.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AWD 745070

Confidential

Company officials say they cannot buckle down to the long demand which the employees are now seeking since a precedent would be set which the company could never hope to overcome. The company handed out an ultimatum on the morning of 14 October which informed employees that if they are not back at work by 141500 October the company will close down. Company officials would then resign and reform the business.

COMMENT: Here again is an example of what a well-organized few (communists) can do to an uninterested majority since only a few ringleaders are causing the trouble.

b. Political Parties and Other Organizations

(1) Highlights of the 152nd Session of the Interim Legislative Assembly

TCH'EI Dong O, vice-speaker, called the 152nd session of the Interim Legislative Assembly to order at 101400. Sixty-four members answered the opening roll call.

A letter was read from the Acting Military Governor who made known that even though the Military Governor may propose amendments to laws, there will be instances in which petitions for legislation, or amendments, will merely be transmitted to the Assembly without recommendations for such action as the Assembly may desire to take.

A report from the Education and Welfare committee concerning proposed legislation on the abolishment of opium cultivation, trade and use was read. The committee pointed out that legislation on this subject was unnecessary since ordinance #119, dated 11 November 1946, and the Public Health and Welfare department order #3, "Narcotics Regulations", dated 24 June 1947, already cover the subject.

In answer to the Acting Military Governor's letter which requested reconsideration of the disapproval report rendered by the Qualifications committee in the case of LEE Choon Ho's appointment as the president of SEOUL National University (see par 4b/6/, P/R #654), the committee backed its previous stand and said it was impossible for that group to submit any other recommendation. The committee did say that it would be in accord with any method the floor may desire to undertake in making a final decision on this controversial subject.

At the end of the period for reports and announcements it was decided to refer the drafting of an amendment to the Election law, requested by the Department of Police, to the Legislative and Judicial committee for further study and report. The Department of Police objects to that section of the Election law which disqualifies for election persons who were officers of the national police during the Japanese regime, with the grade of "hanninkan" or above. (A "hanninkan" is the equivalent to the chief of one of SEOUL's district police stations.)

The Qualification committee's report concerning LEE Choon Ho for presidency of SEOUL National University was then brought to the floor by Dr. KIM Kyu Sic, house speaker. Uncooperativeness on the part of the committee was obvious and the cause for a spirited discussion on the subject. Because of the heated debate over this question, the day's chairman declared that the remainder of the session would be secret and all visitors and observers were requested to clear the chamber. Accusations and counter accusations continued on into the secret session. After a careful check of attendance to ascertain whether or not a quorum was present, a secret ballot was finally taken from the 61 present. LEE was approved by a vote of 45 for, 14 against, with two abstaining.

Session adjourned at 1740. Next session was scheduled for 13 October.

(2) Highlights of the 153rd Session of the Interim Legislative Assembly

YOON Ki Sup, vice-speaker, called the 153rd session of the Interim Legislative Assembly to order at 131400 October with 51 members answering the initial roll.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 745070

Confidential

Since the necessary two-thirds quorum for considering laws was not present, the discussion turned from the agenda to disciplinary measures which the Assembly could invoke against absent members. Three primary ideas concerning lowering absenteeism were discussed: (1) members who miss a session would have to answer to the Discipline Committee, (2) a day's pay would be taken for each session missed and (3) change the present Assembly rules concerning majorities and quorums. No decisions were reached.

Session adjourned at 1650. Next session was scheduled for 141300 October.

(3) Papal Emissary Introduced

The Right Reverend Patrick J. BYRNE, D. D., representative of the Holy See, who is visiting South KOREA was guest of honor at an introductory gathering held in the Catholic cathedral in SEOUL on Sunday, 12 October. The American Commander was represented by his Chief of Staff and the Acting Military Governor was present. Prominent among guests were both middle-of-the-road and right-wing leaders, and officials from the South Korean Interim Government.

5. INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING ADJACENT AREAS

NK Communists Attempt To Inspire Hysteris, Hatred

Last week GOEBBELS-like Russian propagandists brought up heavy propaganda artillery and bombarded South KOREA from Radio PYONGYANG with the following illustrative paragraphs:

"South Korean reactionaries have resorted to the cowardly means of sending a little 10-year old boy into the North...to have him poison drinking water for the purpose of massacring North Korean people en-masses and collecting information".

Another one from whole-cloth is the communists' report of a South Korean teacher's tale: "I was taken to the basement headquarters of the NORTHWEST KOREAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION....one shudders at the mere mention of its name...the brutal atrocities committed by the murderers before my own eyes are beyond description but right in front of me there was nailed against the wall a girl completely naked, who was non other than the 18-year-old girl student of mine. I tried to talk to her several times but she was unconscious. Bashed by iron bars and clubs, I collapsed unconscious...this brutal torture went on for five hours...on the third round of torture they stripped me, hung me upside down and poured chili powder into my nostrils and mouth...once again I passed out. After this they passed me on to the police under false charges."

An "incident" played up over Radio PYONGYANG is their report of South Korean police beating a woman, who was pregnant nine months, causing her to have a miscarriage. Another story is told of how South Korean policemen "trampled under their feet a three-year-old boy...until death came".

This broadcast was capped with the tale of what a witness is supposed to have seen in a detention cell in the MAPO police station. Claiming to quote their source, communist broadcasters read, "I found a boy lying in my cell... he could not have been more than nine years old...tortured by the beastly reactionary policemen, the boy was drenched with blood...holding our hands the boy said, 'I want you to crush KIM Koo and RHEE Syng Man who have sold our country and who are only indulging in the dream of becoming presidents, and avenge myself which I cannot do myself'. So saying the boy took his last breath. Hugging the body of this boy, we spent the night."

The communist commentator concluded, "What wrong could a little boy three years old have done? What wrong ideas could a little boy nine years old have? What wrong could they have done to be murdered brutally as they have been? The bastards have at last become blood-thirsty devils. WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO CRUSH THEM WITHOUT FAIL AND COMFORT THE SOULS OF THE BOYS MURDERED BY THEM!"

Confidential

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 745070

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Six Pistols, Ammo, Swords, Sabers Picked Up By KUMJE Police

KUMJE (989-1429) police recently raided several homes after hearing rumors that an attack on the local police box was imminent. The raids resulted in the capture of five pistols, one sword, two sabers and 37 rounds of ammunition.

Another pistol was picked up by KUMJE police on 08 October when they raided an unauthorized meeting of the local branch of the communist SOUTH KOREAN LABOR PARTY. (6th Division P/R #721)

[Handwritten Signature]
AC of S, G-2

- 1 Incl.
- 1-Translation of SEOUL Newspapers

Under the provisions of par 33a (1), AR 380-5, 15 Aug 46, authority is hereby granted for destruction of this document after it has served its purpose, and is of no further value to the receiving agency. This authority is extended to cover destruction of previous issues of this publication in accordance with the foregoing instructions.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *AND 745070*

Confidential