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American Delegation
U.S.-USSR JOINT COMMISSION
APC 235

8 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HODGE:

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. S. H. Jackson (Australia) on
6 March 1948.

When Mr. Jackson was seen on 6 March he was in good spirits and talked very freely. He expressed himself essentially as follows on the subjects enumerated below: ***

Jackson Resolution

"My plan was and still is that there be no elections for the present. I wanted to ask General Hodge to prepare an estimate as a military expert on *what* military forces and installations were needed here to continue the protection of South Korea and assure its independence. General Hodge has been held down in creating an armed body by the public opinion at home. This must have necessarily been so because your Congress would not permit the creation of an armed force here in opposition to the forces in North Korea. Also, it would have gone very bad with the General Assembly. In this way, however, the Commission could okay his plans. We would not present them as his plans but as the plans of a military expert.

"Then UNTCOK would get out of South Korea and give General Hodge a chance to organize a defensive force here. We would come back in August. We would find no change in the attitude of the North of course, but the South would be greatly strengthened and be on a good firm basis. We would recommend to the General Assembly in Paris in September that elections could be held in the South.

"I will still put this up as an alternative resolution. It may still be adapted if something should go wrong with the elections here in the South. I discussed this with General Hodge."

Korea Problem Not Settled on Its Own Basis

"I have known even before coming to Korea and have seen evidence ever since I've been here that this Korean matter would not be settled

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here but on the basis of the foreign policies of the nations concerned."

Australia's Position

"Dr. Evatt's idea was to get the Russian troops out of Korea. He thought that the Russians were in the process of moving out as it was. Our figures showed that it cost Russia more to maintain an army in Korea than it cost the U.S. to maintain their army. He was afraid that the Russian troops will stay if elections were held in South Korea in order to see what the U.S. was up to after elections, but he felt that if the status quo continued, Russia would automatically withdraw. Russia doesn't really want the complete possession of Korea - it just wants the use of the rail lines and the warm water ports. As long as it has control of the rail lines and the ports in the Far East, it is satisfied. That is why Russia asked for no more concessions in Manchuria than it did. It could have had much more but it wanted only the transportation system and the ports.

"Dr. Evatt wanted to delay the elections. He wanted the matter referred back to the Little Assembly. He was the first one to propose returning the matter to the Little Assembly. Dr. Evatt wanted UNTCOK's withdrawal and to return again in August - then the matter could be presented to the General Assembly. That was his plan.

"I insisted on the words 'incumbent upon' be inserted into the question referred to the Little Assembly. I was sure that the Little Assembly would not decide that it was 'incumbent upon UNTCOK to carry out Resolution II'. I thought they would shy away from that point. It surprised everyone when they really adopted it."

UNTCOK Simply Writing History

"I have contended from the first that this whole job out here for UNTCOK is simply that of recording history. All of the attempts we made to get into the North although we knew they would be fruitless were for the purpose of showing on the record. You will still see attempts being made. The UN history must show how much effort was made in this direction. In time people will forget what situation

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existed at the moment but will have only the written record to which to refer."

Eventual Outcome in Korea

"When the U.S. withdraws, Russia will get out. Then there will be one of the bloodiest periods in Korea's history. The country will break up into warring factions under strong war lords as it was a hundred years ago. This country will never make progress. They have been existing for 4,000 years now and they haven't gotten ahead. There is nothing here with which they can pull themselves up. The situation here will exist as it is in Macedonia."

In answer to the question as to whether or not Communism will take over South Korea, Mr. Jackson replied, "No. They won't take it over. There will be just a bloody civil war between all factions. Russia really doesn't want Korea but does want the railroad for access to warm water."

/s/John Weckerling
JOHN WECKERLING
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

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