

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA
Office of Special Investigator
APO 235 Unit 2

LAN/ced

(46)
MGSPI 333.5 - Gov. Ryu, Hai Chin,
Cheju-do

MAR 11 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Special Investigation - Governor RYU, Hai Chin
of Cheju-do Island

TO : Commanding General
United States Army Military Governor in Korea
APO 235 Unit 2

I. AUTHORITY

1. This investigation was conducted during the period 12 November 1947 - 28 February 1948, at Seoul, Korea and Cheju-do Island, Korea, by Lt. Colonel Lawrence A. Nelson, TC, under authority of General Orders No. 34, Headquarters, United States Army Military Government in Korea, dated 19 September 1946.

II. MATTER INVESTIGATED

2. The matter investigated involved several separate but closely related cases involving Governor RYU, Hai Chin and his administration. The first case involved and "Investigation of Persons for Signing a Petition to US-USSR Joint Commission", dated 15 October 1947 (Exhibit A); and the second case, dated 15 October 1947, involved the persecution of Communists in Cheju-do (Exhibit B). These cases were instituted by the Department of Justice. Other complaints against the Governor were made by the Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Cheju-do (Exhibit B-1). This investigation was then directed by the Chief Adviser, South Korean Interim Government (Exhibit B-2).

III. FACTS

3. The Governor was absent in Seoul during the 19-21 November 1947 routine inspection by the undersigned. On the following inspection by the undersigned 7-9 January 1948 the Governor was interviewed and made a statement. This statement was checked and many discrepancies were found. A sworn and signed statement was taken from the Governor on 19 February 1948 (Exhibit J). Statements were also taken from the Chief Civil Affairs Officer (Exhibit B-1), the Adjutant of the 59th Military Government Company (Exhibit C) and the officer in charge of the Cheju-do CIC sub-detachment (Exhibit D).

4. Governor RYU, Hai Chin answered questions covering a broad scope of his administration on the following points:

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- a. The political situation.
- b. The Governor's attitude toward opposing political parties.
- c. Control of public gatherings and meetings.
- d. Effect of his administration on Leftists.
- e. Tendencies of the people toward Right or Left.
- f. The 15 August 1947 parade of Police and Constabulary.
- g. Rise in terroristic acts.
- h. Effect of police on political tendencies.
- i. Mainland police fill highest police positions.
- j. The variance in ration allowance.
- k. Attitude toward farmers and city dwellers.
- l. Ration cards are held in Myung Chang's office.
- m. Improper storage of grain purchased by P.F.S.
- n. Failure to comply with N.F.A. Regulation #6.
- o. Failure to repair Provincial warehouses.
- p. Provisions to store 30,000 suk of rice from Cholla Namdo.
- q. Failure to unload bamboo from LST
- r. Housing requirements - refugees.
- s. Failure to protect building supplies.
- t. Failure to maintain Provincial trucks provided by the U.S. Government.
- u. Packed condition of jails.
- v. Relationship between American advisers and Korean officials.
- w. Mismanagement of Provincial hospital.

5. The foregoing points are explained below under headings lettered as above:

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a. The political situation is not sound or secure. The Governor has used harsh methods of dictatorship and extreme Rightist power.

Reference: Exhibits J, Q. 2
" B
" C
" D

b. Governor RYU is ruthless and dictatorial in his dealings with opposing political parties.

Reference: Exhibit B
" C
" D
" K

c. The Governor desires to regain the authority to control public assemblies of all kinds.

Reference: Exhibit I
" J, Q. 10

d. The Leftists have been driven underground in their operations.

Reference: Exhibit B-1
" C
" D
" J, Q. 14-22

e. Leftists have increased in number under the administration of Governor RYU.

Reference: Exhibit C

f. The Governor reviewed the police during the 15 August 1947 parade, but failed to review the constabulary.

Reference: Exhibit B-1
" J, Q. 13

g. Terroristic acts have increased during the term of Governor RYU.

Reference: Exhibit B-1
" C
" D
" J, Q. 18

h. Police are responsible for Leftist sympathy.

Reference: Exhibit C

i. Mainland police fill the highest police positions on the island.

Reference: Exhibit C
" J, Q. 23

j. The ration allowance in the various Myuns is not uniform.

Reference: Exhibit K

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k. Ration cards are held in the Myun Changs office instead of held by the rationees. This places direct control of food rationing in the hands of politicians.

Reference: Exhibit J, Q. 29

" K

m. Grain purchased by the Provincial Food Service is stored out of doors on the ground although Provincial Food warehouses are only from 10% to 20% filled.

Reference: Exhibit K, page 12, para 8.

n. The Governor failed to comply with N.F.A. Regulations #6 by leaving 14,000 suk of summer grain in the villages of the island.

Reference: Exhibit J, Q. 31

" K, page 2

o. The Governor failed to repair and maintain Government property and thereby failed to provide adequate storage and protection for grain and food stuffs.

Reference: Exhibit K, page 12, para 9

p. No preparation was made for proper protection of 30,000 suk of supplemental rice from Cholla Mando from the 1947 crop (Exhibit K, page 12). The Governor had no knowledge of how much rice had been received (Exhibit J, Q. 37).

q. The Governor requested assistance in obtaining building materials from Military Government (Exhibit E). He then refused to unload bamboo upon arrival. (Exhibit F)

r. Upon arrival of bamboo the Governor stated that is was in excess of his needs (Exhibit F). The construction of all types of housing is now under way as of 20 February 1948. Approximately 100 houses are being built in Cheju City.

s. The Governor failed to protect the bamboo after it was unloaded at Cheju Harbor.

Reference: Exhibit L

t. The Provincial Motor Pool failed to maintain and protect U.S. trucks turned over for Provincial use.

Reference: Exhibit L

u. There were 365 prisoners in the Cheju jail on 19 February 1947. Thirty-five prisoners were crowded in a cell approximately 10'x 12'. Observed by the undersigned in the company of Governor RYU. Two additional truck loads of prisoners were brought into the jail at the time of inspection. The Governor stated they were nearly all Communists.

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v. The Governor and his staff do not keep the American advisers informed on Governmental activities. During Governor RYU's regime the business of Government has been conducted by the Koreans with an attitude of guarded secrecy.

Reference: Exhibit B-1
" M

w. The Provincial hospital was inspected by the undersigned, accompanied by 1st Lt. Allen H. Lee, Adviser to Bureau of Public Health and Welfare, and Dr. Song, Korean Director of Public Health and Welfare. Two efficient Cheju-do Korean doctors had been relieved on orders from the Governor. His order directed that one doctor be reduced in grade, which resulted in his resignation. The other doctor resigned in sympathy with his doctor partner. On the date of inspection there were no doctors assigned to the hospital. There were forty-two employees in the hospital and twelve patients. The families of the patients were living with the patients and giving what care they had. The hospital was filthy. Ward rooms had filth and litter all over the floors and furniture. The operating room was filthy and had a pan of bloody rags near the operating table. Equipment was improperly maintained and indicated no signs of supervision or direction. Dr. Song stated that three doctors from "up north" were coming to Cheju to work in the hospital.

IV. DISCUSSION

6. Governor RYU, Hai Chin has repeatedly demonstrated his inability to properly administer a Province as a governor. He has made futile attempts to control political thought by ruthless and dictatorial methods. He has driven the Leftist factions underground, where their activities have grown more dangerous. Leftist numbers and sympathies have increased.

7. Governor RYU reviewed the police but failed to review the constabulary during the 15 August 1947 parade. He explained that he left the reviewing stand to get a drink of water. The Chief Civil Affairs Officer complained that the Governor had left conferences with Americans without reason or explanation, before the conferences were completed.

8. Many terroristic acts have been caused by the police under the Governor RYU regime. All top police positions are filled with police recruited from the mainland. Governor RYU is not a native of Cheju, and has filled many positions of appointment with mainland people which has not been placidly accepted by natives of Cheju-do.

9. His administration of the summer grain collection program and the rationing of foods is typical of the general mismanagement found in all branches of Government. He failed to comply with National Food Regulation #6, which required purchased grains to be stored in Provincial

warehouses. He permitted the grain to remain in village warehouses and reported a 100% collection, when the collection was only 15% of the quota. The mishandling of the summer grain program led to an unequal rationing system in the various guns. The food ration system was further used as a political weapon by holding all ration cards in the Myung Chang's office rather than permitting the rationees to carry his own card.

10. The Governor told the Chief Civil Affairs Officer on his arrival, about 1 March 1947, that he was a politician and not a business man. His administration has apparently been conducted in such a manner as to prove that remark. His Provincial warehouse for grain storage have not been repaired and the grain was stored out of doors on the ground. He had made no preparation for storage or protection of 30,000 suk of supplemental rice from Cholla Namdo.

11. During a conference with the Governor in October 1947 by the undersigned, he requested building materials. Bamboo was shipped from Pusan stocks. The administrative detail of unloading the bamboo at Cheju-do harbor was unsolvable by the Governor who ordered the LST to return to Pusan with its cargo. He was directed to unload the bamboo by an order from this headquarters, through the Chief Civil Affairs Officer. After unloading the cargo, he failed to protect it. The undersigned found a group of Koreans using some of the bamboo for a bonfire in the port area.

12. His Provincial Motor Pool was an exhibition of neglect and vandalism. The U.S. Government, through USOCS, allotted 34 trucks to Cheju in August 1947. Four months later, fifteen of the trucks were completely stripped.

13. The Cheju jail presents the worst case of crowding found in any penal institution in Korea. Thirty-five prisoners in a cell, ten by twelve feet. A total of 365 prisoners in a relatively small jail. The Governor said that the inmates were mostly Leftists. This is a good example of his program for converting Leftists to Rightists.

14. The Governor and his staff have been uncooperative in their relationships with Americans. This fact has been repeated by many of the American advisers and staff members from this headquarters.

15. The administration of the Provincial hospital is typical of all activities under Provincial control. It is unsatisfactory from any reasonable Korean standard. The infliction of politics in every phase of government, has produced a type of government, which any intelligent person would reject.

V. CONCLUSIONS

16. Since ten distinct and varied phases of Governor RYU, Hai Chin's regime were carefully investigated and found unsatisfactory, it may be

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assumed that all phases of his government are unsatisfactory.

17. The previous and present Chief Civil Affairs Officers agree on his mismanagement, uncooperativeness, lack of business sense and incompetency.

18. The prosecution of Leftists who wished to present a petition to the US-USSR Joint Commission was illegal.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

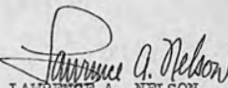
19. That Governor RYU, Hai Chin be replaced.

20. That the Department of National Police conduct an investigation into the administration of police on Cheju-Do Island.

21. That an American Police Adviser be assigned to duty with the 59th Military Government Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

22. That the Department of Justice investigate the matter of over crowded jails.

14 Incls:
Exhibits "A" to "M"

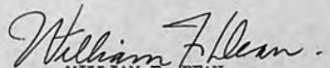

LAWRENCE A. NELSON
Lt. Col., TC
Special Investigator

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APPROVED: *WME*
Except for paragraph 19.


WILLIAM F. DEAN
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

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