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(Russel D. Barros) 중령 진술

UNITED STATES ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA  
Office of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer  
Cheju Do, Korea

21 Nov. 1947

MEMORANDUM:

To: Lt. Col. Nelson (OSI)

In reference to the political situation on Cheju Do, there are many factors that lead to the present situation. Since my coming to Cheju in April 1947 the consensus of opinion amongst the farmers and higher class of people is that the Japanese did not treat them as badly as the people on the mainland were treated and that there were many factories operating here with a sufficient food supply on the island to take care of the people. Under Military Government the condition is not as good as under the Japanese. The people on the island speak a trifle different Korean language. (A dialect). Cheju itself being an island with its beliefs etc. is like a small nation. Mainland people in public offices do not seem to get along with Cheju people as well as a person from this island. There is at present a slightly noticeable rift in the police command on the island between the mainland police and the police originally from this island. This rift someday might lead to trouble.

In a conference with General Lerch before my coming to the island, the General stated that he was not going to relieve the old Governor as he was no weaker than any other Governor in Korea. However, approximately one week after my arrival on the island a new Governor came to the island and my office was not notified. In the first conference with Governor Ryu, he stated that he was not a business man but only a politician. During the Governors regime on the island his attitude seems to be one of "just tolerating Americans". During different conferences with the Governor he has most impolitely stood up and walked out of the office for no known reason whatsoever. During the August 15 parade by the Constabulary and Police, he reviewed the police but failed to review the Constabulary. He has never allowed a meeting of any party except the ones that are closely affiliated with his side. Such action places the undersigned in an embarrassing position with the peoples of the island. Terroristic acts of the Rightist are increasing on the island and the Governor has taken no steps to stop such action. A number of people have been relieved from office since the Governors arrival but relieved in a Korean manner.

Ex-Governor Pak is chairman of the Leftist organization on the island and it is my belief that it is better to have a person at the head of that organization who will listen to a persons advice and follow his advice. Ex-Governor Pak is not a Communist and is very pro-American. He is Leftist for his own political reasons and because he is not a rightist. He is not a dangerous person to Korea or Military Government.

In summing everything up, Governor Ryu started his political career on this island in a high handed manner and has continued in the same manner till this day. His manner and actions are dictatorial amongst a population of poor people.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:  
*Lawrence A. Nelson*  
LAWRENCE A. NELSON  
Lt. Col., TC  
EXHIBIT B-1

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *NN 745070*

/s/ Russel D. Barros  
/t/ RUSSEL D. BARROS  
Lt. Co. CAC  
CCAO