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SOUTH KOREAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT
Department of Public Information
Seoul, Korea

PRESS RELEASE

31 January 1948

ITEM I:

E X T R A C T

Reaffirming the South Korean Interim Government's definite policy on freedom of speech, press, and assembly in South Korea in anticipation of the forth coming election, a directive signed by Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, Military Governor, and AHN Chai Hong, Civil Administrator, was sent to all Provincial Governors and the Mayor of Seoul on January 27.

The directive read:

1. You are reminded that it has always been the policy of this Government that the democratic rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly be recognized, respected and safeguarded. It is especially important that these rights be protected during the period of preparation for general election.

2. The Director of the Department of Police has issued special instruction to all Police Chiefs, reminding them of the government's policy with respect to observance of democratic rights. These instructions provide for the granting of applications for all public meetings and for non-interference with the distribution of newspaper articles, handbills and posters, unless they actually incite to riot or sedition. If arrests appear necessary at any time, and no evidence of a criminal act is forthcoming, the arrested persons are to be released immediately. The instructions further remind the members of the National Police that they have no right to engage in political activities, except as a voter in an election.

3. You will insure that these principles are carried into effect.

SOUTH KOREAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT
Department of Public Information
Seoul, Korea

PRESS RELEASE

2 February 1948

ITEM I:

Provincial Police Chiefs are responsible to their respective governors for the maintenance of law and order and all other police duties within the province, Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, Military Governor, reminded provincial governors in a letter January 26.

General Dean pointed out that they had authority over police chiefs in all matters except organization, administration, finances, and personnel.

EXHIBIT "I"

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Authority *NAV 745070*

Press Release, South Korean Interim Government, DFI, Seoul, Korea, dtd 2 Feb 48

"Centralized control with decentralized operation is the key to this police system," the Military Governor said. He explained that chiefs of police are responsible for their duties to governing agencies having jurisdiction over the areas in which they operate.

A copy of the letter follows:

"At this time I wish to bring to the attention of all those concerned the following points, as amended herewith, from letter dated 27 December 1945, Office of the Military Governor, Bureau of Police.

"Subject: Organization of National Police of Korea:

"The chief of police of a province is responsible to the governor of the province for the maintenance of law and order and all functions charged to the police within the province. The provincial governor issues to the Chief of police the necessary instructions to accomplish this. The provincial governor is not authorized to issue orders affecting organization, administration, finances, or personnel to the police.

"The senior police commander in a city is responsible to the mayor of that city for the maintenance of law and order and all functions charged to the police within the territorial limits of the city. The mayor issues to the senior commander the necessary instructions to accomplish this. The mayor is not authorized to issue orders effecting organization, administration, finances, or personnel of the Police.

"The Director of the Department of Police communicates directly with provincial chiefs of police on all routing matters. The chief of police of a province deals directly on police matters with all subordinate police officials in his province. The provincial chief of police will inform the provincial governor of all cases of importance occurring within the province. Senior police commanders in cities will inform the mayor of all cases of importance occurring with the city.

"Provincial governors will report any instances of unsatisfactory police performance to the Director of Department of Police and a copy will be forwarded to the Military Governor.

"Provincial governors, chiefs of police, mayors, and police commanders in cities are enjoined to make every effort to insure the smooth operation of this system.

"Centralized control with decentralized operation is the key to this police system. It is a system which requires that subordinates divisions of the police be responsible for the performance of police duties to the governing agencies who have jurisdiction over the areas in which the subordinate divisions operate.

"The above matters demand full police cooperation with the Provincial Governors and you are directed to assist in a precise and unrelenting manner to bring about the proper relationship."

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CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Lawrence A. Nelson
LAWRENCE A. NELSON
Lt. Col. TC

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