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A/AC.19/56
20 March 1948

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

DECISIONS * ON THE REPORT ** OF THE AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE ON
METHODS OF OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING, 20 MARCH 1948

Scope of observation

1. At the outset the Commission takes note of the limited staff available both to the Commission and to the Secretariat and agrees that any plan for observation must be based on this fact. Due account is also taken of the difficulties of transport, communications and accommodation which will confront any observer groups working in the provinces, particularly in areas situated at any distance from the provincial capitals. In this respect the Commission notes that, in accordance with information received from the United States authorities, the normal use of air transport is to be discouraged and that observer groups will as a general rule travel by train to the provincial capitals and thence undertake local trips by jeep.
2. Subject to the above consideration the Commission decides that the conduct of the elections should be observed in each of the provinces (including the islands of Cheju-Do and Wool Lyong Do, if practicable) and during the most significant stages of the election in each case.
3. In these circumstances the Commission is of the opinion that an essential element in its observation of the election will be the receiving and examining of complaints concerning

* To be read together with the terms of the Resolution adopted at the twenty-second meeting, concerning the implementation of the Resolution of the Interim Committee of the General Assembly (Document A/AC.19/49).

** Document A/AC.19/54.

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the conduct of the election in any area. Accordingly in addition to requesting information on complaints received by the National Election Committee, the Commission will indicate its readiness to receive complaints or information concerning the conduct of the elections from any quarter. Special examination of such complaints will be made when deemed necessary.

4. Having in mind the considerations of paras. 1 and 3, the Commission decides that observation of the elections should be undertaken (a) centrally by liaison with and observation of the work of the National Election Committee, and (b) in the provinces by direct observation through field observer groups.

Free atmosphere for elections

5. The Commission recognizes that observation consists not only in examining the extent to which the requirements of the elections law and regulations are complied with. The Commission considers that political and other activities occurring during the election period are important from the viewpoint of determining whether elections are to be held in a free atmosphere. Such political aspects include activities of political parties and organizations; behaviour of youth organizations; conduct of the police; extent of and reasons for non-participation in the elections both by individual voters and political organizations; attitude of the police and other authorities towards such non-participation; extent to which candidates are un-opposed; and the general public reaction to the elections. In this respect the Commission notes the relevance of the recommendations concerning a free atmosphere for elections adopted at the twenty-sixth meeting (document A/AC.19/52).

Relations with the United States authorities

6. The Commission, having regard to the terms of Resolution 1 of the General Assembly of 14 November 1947 whereby the Commission is to observe that the Korean representatives "are

in fact duly elected by the Korean people and not mere appointees by military authorities in Korea", decides to establish a procedure whereby it may observe and report on the methods used by the United States authorities in fulfilling their responsibilities concerning the conduct of the elections, especially in the provinces.

7. In accordance with the above consideration appropriate liaison will be established between the Commission's own agencies of observation and those of the United States authorities (see para. 15e).

Question of an expert consultant.

8. The Commission considered the question of appointing an expert consultant to assist it during the period of observation. The Commission is of the opinion that it must be able at any time to exercise effective control over members of the staff assisting it and that, if a consultant were appointed, it would not be possible to ensure such control. As a consideration of a practical kind, the Commission also notes that there is now insufficient time in which to make suitable arrangements for an expert to be selected and attached to the Commission.

9. The Commission agrees that, should it be deemed necessary, experts might be consulted on specific questions.

System of reporting.

10. The Commission considers that an appropriate uniform system of reporting by groups engaged in the observation of the elections should be established. It therefore, decides that a questionnaire be drawn up by the ad hoc Sub-Committee based upon relevant provisions of the election law and regulations and the political aspects of the election referred to in para.7, which will indicate the more important factors to be as far as possible taken into account in observing the elections.

Stages of observation

11. The Commission considers that, both centrally in Seoul and

in the provinces, the attempt should be made to observe each of the important successive stages of the elections* :

- (a) The period of registration of voters (30 March to 8 April);
- (b) The period during which poll registers may be examined (14 to 20 April), appeals made and candidates registered;
- (c) Polling day;
- (d) The post-election period.

Organization of the Commission for observation.

12. In considering its organization for purposes of observing the election the Commission had in mind both its limited staffing resources and the structure of existing sub-committees.

13. Main Committee; The Commission decides that on 29 March 1948 the existing sub-committees will be merged into one Committee on which a representative of each member of the Commission will be entitled to sit, but whose membership may rotate in accordance with the willingness of members to undertake periodic duties with the field observer groups. The Commission agrees, in establishing the main Committee, that original members of the sub-committees should as far as possible be assigned such tasks as are familiar to them in the light of their past experiences. The functions of this Committee will include:

- (a) Maintenance of permanent liaison with the National Election Committee in Seoul;
- (b) General observation of the work of the election committees;
- (c) The receiving and examination of complaints and general information concerning the conduct of the elections;

* The principal steps of the electoral process are provisionally set out in document A/AC.19/W.14/Add.2.

- (d) The analysis of reports received from the Commission's observer groups;
- (e) The obtaining and analyzing of information concerning attitudes of Koreans towards participation in the elections;
- (f) The examining of and reporting to the Commission on conditions relating to a free atmosphere for the holding of elections;
- (g) The planning and co-ordination of the activities of the field observer groups in accordance with the general directions of the Commission.

14. The Commission recognizes that in the discharge of the above responsibilities the Committee may wish to set up sub-committees under specific terms of reference and special groups for the examination of complaints (para. 15c).

Field observer groups:

15. The Commission decides to establish in the first instance two or three field observer groups to observe the conduct of the elections in selected areas in accordance with a co-ordinated plan.

The functions of the field observer groups will include:

- (a) Observation on the spot of the activities of selected provincial and local election committees;
- (b) Examination of the extent to which provisions of the electoral law and regulations have been complied with in the areas observed;
- (c) Hearing and examination of complaints received in the areas observed or as directed by the main Committee;
- (d) Observation of the political aspects of the election campaign in selected areas from the viewpoint of determining whether a free atmosphere for the election exists, with special regard to the conduct of the police and youth organizations;

- (e) Observation, as circumstances permit, of the work of observer groups or agencies established by the United States authorities, by the attaching, where practicable of a Commission observer to United States observation groups.

16. As a general rule, field observer groups should consist of two members of Commission delegations, together with appropriate Secretariat staff.

Facilities.

17. The Commission took note of information conveyed orally to the Secretariat by the United States Liaison Officer concerning the availability of services and facilities required for observation of the elections. According to this information the United States authorities, upon advice as to detailed requirements, will furnish in all provincial capitals such transport, accommodation and communication facilities as the Commission may need, together with office space and appropriate security measures. The Commission presumes that provision of these facilities includes their cost.

18. The Commission authorizes the Secretariat to consult with the United States authorities in detail concerning the above and other facilities in the light of methods and principles of observation approved by the Commission.

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