

02-1328

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA
AFG 235

Inter-Office Memorandum

SUBJECT: Reports on visit to Cheju Do

Memo No.	Date	From	To	Message
1	23 Mar 48	DPH&W	OCA USAMGIK	<p>1. The following extracts from reports of visit of inspection reports submitted by member of this Department after visit to Cheju Do are forwarded for your information.</p> <p>2. Inspection made by Dr. Chai, Chong Choi, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health and Welfare Korean and Lt. John S. MacCarthy, MC, Assistant Adviser, Medical Services.</p> <p>3. Persons visited were American military personnel, missionaries, Koreans in government and institutions, many of whom were considered prejudiced.</p> <p>4. The present Governor and many other public officials including Dr. Song, Chief of Bureau, Public Health and Welfare, are from the mainland, prejudicing the local population against them since they apparently stick rather closely together and tend to draw more "mainlanders" into the government.</p> <p>5. All activity on the island is colored by politics and this is apparently a reason for the bias shown. Apparently the present Korean administration has undertaken, or been found to take rather stern measures against Leftist activity.</p> <p>6. A brief analysis of the major expenditures follows. Dr. Song disclaims responsibility for financial matters as he claims the Governor and Treasurer dispense all public funds, including those of Bureau, Public Health and Welfare.</p>
	¥ 595,000			For repairs and other expenses of provincial hospital. Not all of this money was received or dispensed. This is a definite irregularity. Further, there is no separate accounting for the money spent for care of indigent patients. In no case has the American Adviser been consulted.
	¥ 289,000			Veterinary Affairs
	¥ 204,000			Prevention of Veterinary diseases.
	¥ 124,600			Milk sanitation (No milk produced on Cheju) A majority of this money was spent on prevention of rabies. Although rabies has been a serious threat to this island (no case ever seen by American Adviser), it is questionable that this sum was necessary. Approximately ¥ 150,000 remains unspent.

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¥ 410,000
455,500

¥ 72,500
Total ¥ 3,247,036

Public Health Center
Vaccination program, TB control, other public health measures. 273,000 remains. The Public Health Center is a building with someone living there. They seem to have neither physician, nurse or patients.
For the production of herb medicines
Only major items have been listed. Considerable sums have been spent for "improvement of health", etc., but even the smallest sums are properly accounted for although there is little to show for what has been spent.

Relief has not been a major problem on Cheju. To the best of our knowledge only 550 refugees have entered the island. Most repatriates have been assimilated by their families in the local population. Apparently 18 houses have been built and there are 80 in various stages of construction but these house the poor of Cheju rather than refugees. Several plans have been considered, started, abandoned, some with waste of public money for the care of refugees.

In one specific case part of a shipment of bamboo was sold to the public. A large proportion of this was sold, and funds received have far exceeded the cost of handling, which was the original reason for sale. Our information indicates that this sum exceeds ¥ 350,000, which is now deposited to account PH&W. In the meantime, most of the bamboo was not used for the purpose intended.

Of the total ¥ 1,286,890 so far received during this financial year for relief, (welfare), ¥ 343,910 were used for traveling expenses of local officials, 480,000 was used for "transportation of relief goods". 153,060 was given to Myun officials for "traveler's aid". It is doubted that this money is needed for this purpose on an island 40 miles by 20 which has scarcely any refugees.

Together with surpluses, receipts from sale of bamboo, and unspent money for this quarter, nearly ¥ 2,000,000 now is available for PH&W.

7. There is little doubt that the office of PH&W has been used for political purposes. The license of one midwife (granted by signature of Y.S. Lee, Director PH&W) was not honored because of alleged Communist activity. This was not sufficient for police action, however.

In another case, the hospital of Dr. Chang was closed by order of the governor, apparently without medical justification. In still another instance, the superintendent of the provincial hospital was demoted by the Governor on the request of several government employees chiefly on the charge of using money from earnings of hospital to operate the hospital, even though no money was forthcoming from the provincial treasury during this period.

Further, two officials of the Cheju Do Provincial Government, Mr. Ra In Ho, and Dr. Song are also on the staff of the provincial hospital. This is absolutely unindicated. Meetings of the Cheju Do medical association has been used for political discussion by Dr. Song.

8. American drugs distributed

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through wholesalers have not been distributed fairly enough to satisfy the local doctors. In no case has the American Adviser been consulted.

As a result of this political activity and partiality in the distribution of medical supplies, the local medical profession has been alien to the point that they have no respect for PH&W office. There is real doubt that they cooperate in reporting infectious diseases or that local officials cooperate in investigating and diagnosing these when they are reported. This endangers the health of American troops. Further, no member of the local medical profession will even consider accepting any post in either the Bureau of PH&W or in the Provincial Hospital at the present time because of the political indication. This is extremely unsatisfactory.

9. Despite solemn promises by the Governor within the past two months that the American Adviser would be consulted in matters of finance, Lt. Lee has not seen a single statement during this period of time. (Promise made to Col. Nelson, I.G.)

10. In a conference with the provincial Governor, the Governor stated that he was aware that Dr. Song (Provincial PH&W) was not satisfactory, both because of his personality and the fact that he was from outside the island. He blamed the poor use of money, the removal of various licenses on Dr. Song. He stated that he removed Dr. Mun Joon Hyuk from the Provincial Hospital because he refused to see government employees who were injured and because he was a poor administrator. He admitted that Dr. Song as head of Provincial Hospital was even less satisfactory than Dr. Mun.

The Governor stated that he had great interest in PH&W. He felt this was one of his most important jobs, especially since Cheju is so primitive in regards to Public Health. He outlined the following specific plan as his plans for PH&W.

1st Stage: To wipe out the Communists. This is almost finished.

2nd Stage: PH&W should go along with industrial development of the island.

Day nurseries are to be set up for the children of fishing people and workers. Public Baths are to be developed in all the villages. PH&W funds are to be used for this. As a beginning for this activity, the Governor has helped to organize "Welfare Organization of Industrial Plants" to develop clinics, etc., at industrial plants. No public funds have been granted to this institution.

11. Example of use of office for political purposes: Case of Dr. Chang Shi Yung, licensed physician of Cheju.

a. Circumstances indicate that a patient, Major Lee of the Constabulary was extremely ill. Dr. Auh was his physician, Dr. Pak was first consultant. Both diagnosed the case as possible typhoid fever. Later, when the patient became worse, Dr. Chang was summoned. His diagnosis was peptic ulcer. The patient has recovered and actual laboratory diagnosis was never made. Further, the history is not typical of either typhoid or peptic ulcer.

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b. Dr. Song heard of the case, and finding it unreported, he saw Dr. Auh and Dr. Pak who apologized for failure to report. (Dr. Song visited the patient and diagnosed it "typhoid fever"). On the other hand, Dr. Chang pointed out that he had no responsibility to report the case because he was only a consultant and besides, he had diagnosed a peptic ulcer.

c. As a result, for alleged failure to report typhoid fever, the license of Dr. Chang was not honored in Cheju and his hospital was closed by order of the Governor. Other reasons for closure have not been given.

d. License was honored only after arrival of Korean and American investigators.

e. The Governor stated that Dr. Chang practiced during this period despite his order.

Case of Han Yer Tek, licensed midwife of Cheju.

a. Midwife with three years training in Japan and 9 years experience. Her Japanese license was honored without question in Seoul.

b. Shortly after the liberation she was president of Yosong Tong Min (Women's Association) which was a moderate group until about the time she resigned from the organization completely about January 1947.

c. On charges by Dr. Song (and others) of Communist activity, she was arrested by police following the March 1st, 1947 demonstrations. She was held for only about 24 hours and discharged, untried. However, her license has not been honored in Cheju since that time.

d. The Governor stated that this license has been withheld for "Communist Activity". After explanation that PH&W had no place in politics, he promised to return the license. Lt. Lee will inform this office whether this has been done.

11. Report on visit to Cheju Provincial Hospital.

a. This is a 36 bed hospital serving the people of Cheju. It is the only public institution available for the people of the Island.

b. Description: There is a stucco main building housing clinic, operating room and X-ray room. The patients live in a one story building behind. The second floor of the main building is scarcely used at all. The out-patient department sees two to three new patients per day. There are nine in-patients. Building badly needs painting, is clean.

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c. Clinical Equipment: One thermometer, one sphygmomanometer. Few hemostats or other surgical instruments.

d. X-ray: Japanese machine which is both fluoroscope and X-ray. There is no film but they have chemicals for developing. They were not able to show us any pictures taken recently.

e. Operating Room: Fair room, very dirty. No light. Sterilizers work.

f. Laboratory: One Japanese microscope. Very primitive laboratory.

g. Library: None

h. Patients: Two cases of endemic hemoptysis (Paragonimiasis) in Constabulary troops. One case of draining fistula (undiagnosed). Two tubercular joints. Most of the patients have been in the hospital for many months. Apparently almost no acute diseases are seen there.

i. Personnel: There is only one doctor actually working there, Dr. Pak. Dr. Song, the absentee superintendent, seldom visits the institution. There are seven nurses and thirty other personnel (for 9 in-patients).

j. Impression: This is the most inefficient hospital I have seen. It has been boycotted by both the medical profession and the general public. Dr. Pak (who has just been licensed speaks excellent English, seems genuinely interested in his work, and is certainly as capable, if not more so, than most Civil Service doctors. He suffers, however, from being a "mainlander".

13. Investigation of circumstances surrounding demotion of Cheju Provincial hospital superintendent.

a. On January 27, 1948, Dr. Moon Joon Hyuk was demoted from hospital superintendent to Chief of Internal Medicine. Mr. Kim Tam Kai was demoted from "General Section Chief" to "Financial Section Manager". Dr. Song Han Yung assumed position of medical superintendent on request of the Governor and Mr. Ba In Ho assumed the position of "General Section Chief". The change resulted in the resignation of the two men demoted and the other licensed doctor working at the hospital, Dr. Moon Joon Hoo, Chief Surgeon.

b. "Neutral doctors" have stated that Dr. Moon's administration of the hospital had resulted in an increase in in-patients and out-patients even over the numbers present under Japanese administration. Both Dr. Moons were quite well respected by doctors and the general public on the island although Dr. Moon Joon Hyuk was a "mainlander".

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discharge of Dr. Moon (by Dr. Song and Governor Yew)

c. Reasons given for the

(1) Refusal to see patients:

(a) Disturbances during rice collection resulted in reported injury to several government employees at a town over 20 miles away. Dr. Moon (surgeon, not the one who was demoted) was unwilling to go at first, finally went. There was only one patient and he was not badly enough injured for hospitalization.

(b) During the past winter some persons died and several others due to exposure while climbing Cheju Mt. (recreational). Mr. Moon, superintendent is said to have been unwilling to go up to the mountain to care for them.

(c) Dr. Moon, former superintendent, claims that it was misunderstanding regarding transportation etc., that resulted in the failure of the doctors to go immediately both times.

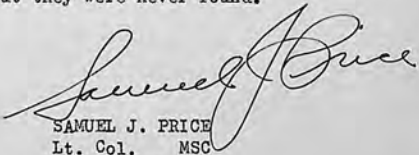
(d) One might question whether any public hospital physician is required to leave his institution to give care. There are no regulations.

(2) Administration:

(a) Dr. Moon used current revenue for operating expenses during spring of 1947, since no money was forthcoming from the treasury for unexplained reasons. He claims that oral permission was granted before this by Dr. Song, Provincial Director, PH&W, but afterward he was chastized by the Governor for doing so.

(b) Dr. Moon's administration resulted in an unexplained loss in some of the instruments owned by the hospital. During his administration some sheets and other materials were stolen. This was reported to the police, but they were never found.

FOR THE ADVISER:


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