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ADDRESS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNOR

TO

THE LEADERS OF THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

I am very happy to meet with the leaders of the various youth associations in Korea. I have always been interested in your associations because they are composed of the young men and women who are bound together by common ideals and who have pledged themselves to work together to attain those ideals. You represent a large proportion of the whole population of Korea and through your activities will help to shape the destiny of your country in the coming years. Even now, today, and in the next few weeks, you can be a tremendous force in the progress of your country toward the goal of independence and freedom, which you, and your fellow Koreans, have been striving for so long. But force, if it is not intelligently applied and wisely directed, can often lead to disastrous results. It is about this which I wish to speak to you today.

One of the characteristics of youth is idealism and a burning desire to achieve the ideal against all opposition. That kind of thing is very fine provided the ideal is the best, and provided the means used to achieve that ideal are proper. However, youth is often intolerant of views of others which are in conflict with those of youth; and youth in its impatience will often give little heed to views of others. I know this because, when I was a young man, I felt intolerant towards those who did not agree with me, and I was impatient with them. I have now become tolerant of other people without sacrificing my own ideals. Human experience shows that, if we are patient and listen to views of others, we can often improve ourselves and learn something of great value.

In the forthcoming elections you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to actively assist the Korean people in their exercise of the full right of the franchise in a free atmosphere.

One of the most important duties of citizenship is to take part in civic affairs. You can do this by encouraging people to vote. In the forthcoming elections it is highly important that the views of

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the majority of the people be represented by the most able men and women elected to the National Assembly for the purpose of consulting the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea in the establishment of a national government. It is necessary, therefore, that as many people vote as possible. You can be of tremendous help to your country by encouraging people to vote. But here is the danger point. You should not permit yourself, in your enthusiasm, to try to impose upon voters your own will, or to use force or threats against others, or to prevent them from voting, if their views are not the same as your views. You represent a moral force encouraging your fellow citizens to take their share in government as you do. You do not represent a police force. If you attempt to exercise the power of a police force, you will be acting contrary to law and will be subject to punishment under the law.

If the aims and activities of your association are political, you must be registered in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 55 governing political parties. If you are associated with any particular political party and are acting for it, you should indicate that in your registration. If you are not already registered and come within the requirements of Ordinance No. 55 for registration, you must take immediate steps to register and to comply with all other provisions of that law.

On days of registration and on the day of election you must be most careful not to interfere with the rights of others to register or to vote for the candidate of their choice. By all means you must not congregate around polling places on those days. Your mere presence in large numbers, or even in small groups, might be interpreted as a threat to use force against others who do not share your views.

This is extremely important. Your activities during the next few weeks will be under the closest scrutiny of members of the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea and their representatives throughout the country. The Commission is required to report to the

United Nations Assembly on whether a fair election has been held and whether there was free atmosphere preceding and during election time so that all eligible voters had an opportunity to express their choice freely without any interference whatsoever.

As leaders of the various youth organizations you have a great responsibility. You have the duty of controlling the activities of the other members of your organizations, in such a way that you will be a constructive force and not a destructive force interfering with the processes of a free election. You must remind your members that threats, use of force, or any other unlawful acts interfering with a free election or restricting the rights of fellow citizens will not be excused and will not be tolerated on the ground of the youthfulness of the offenders but will be fully punished under the law. You must remind them also that, even if they escape punishment, they will endanger the progress of their country by committing acts which might prevent the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea from recognizing the validity of the election.

I have confidence in your leadership and feel sure that you can guide the activities of your fellow members into constructive work in encouraging fellow Koreans to vote but not in interfering with them in any way whatsoever. I wish you great success in your constructive program.

YOUTH GROUPS REPRESENTED AT MEETING CALLED BY DR. CHOUGH BYUNG OK,
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL POLICE, AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL, 26 MARCH 1948

1. United Young Men's Association Dai Dong Chung Nyun Dang	20
2. Korean Young Men's Association for National Construction Chosun Kawnkook Tchawng Nyawn Hway	30
3. Korean Young Men's Christian Association Chosun Ki Dek Tchawng Nyawn Hway	1
4. Dai Han Chung Hway Korean Justice Party	5
5. Northwest Young Men's Association Saw Book Chung Nyun Hway	6
6. Korean National Youth Inc. Skig Chosun An Jok Chung Myun Dang	3
7. Dai Han Kook Chung, Hway National Young Men's Association	2
8. Korean Labor Association Dai Han No. Chung	2
9. All Korean Student's League Chung Kook Hak San Hong Tun Hway	1
10. Chang Yi Tan Democratic Justice Assn.	2
11. Korean Independence Young Men's Party Dai Han Dok Lip Chung Nyun Dang	2
12. Great Korean Young Men's Party Dai Han Chung Nyun Dang	1
13. Catholic Young Men's Assn. Federation of Tehawn Choo Kyo Yaw Cha Tchawng Nyun Hway Yawn Highway	1
14. Tong Bang Young Men's Assn. Oriental Young Men's Assn.	1
15. Korean Established Young Men's Assn. Kunkook Chung Nyun Hway	1

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