

1948. 03. 25. 조병옥 경무부장의 청년지도자회의 훈시*

INSTRUCTIONS BY DR. CHOUGH, PYONG OK
Director of Korean National Police,
At the Youth Leaders Conference in Seoul
Held on 25 March 1948

As it is known, the General Election, to be held on coming May 9, is the only method and the best chance to accomplish our sovereign independence on the way of our rehabilitation. I sincerely request everyone of our nation, every adult who has the right of voting, not only to support the General Election wholly and fully, but also to attend to the historical and sacred task, casting a sacred vote willingly.

We, however, are faced to the political confusion, which make it difficult for the good citizens to discriminate the right and wrong, by the reactionary obstructive tactics of some nationalists under the good name of the Unified Government, to say nothing of the leftists who absolutely oppose the General Election.

The National Police, cooperating with the organs concerned, the patriotic organizations and especially you, patriotic youth organizations who include the majority of the adults, will exert itself in enlightening and leading the nation to bring about successful fruition of the General Election. Particularly, appealing to your patriotic soul, I sincerely request you, all the youth organizations, to prohibit every word and action which may adversely influence a free atmosphere.

According to the draft on the free atmosphere submitted by the U.N. Temporary Commission on Korea, it is proposed at section 10, par. 2, that "in order to insure that the members of the youth organizations would not hinder the normal progress of the Election, (1) attentions should be called to the leaders of such organizations by the authorities concerned, particularly by the Police, that the unlawful actions of such organizations as well as of any other citizens shall not be permitted, and

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(2) activities of the youth organizations should strictly be controlled and supervised."

As it had already been demonstrated in fighting to maintain peace and order, the National Police has the firm resolution to control and decisively punish the illegal actions of any youth organizations no matter of their political belongings, rightists or leftists.

Again, your rational and wise action is required in order to have the youth organizations and their members understand that their behavior is under the observation of UN and to take advantage of this opportunity to display the discipline and order of the Korean Nation.

Above all, I call your attention to the following: You are required to exercise the greatest determination and magnanimity in the creation of a free atmosphere in accordance with my instructions.

1. All youth organizations have the obligation to register at the Public Information Section of the city of Seoul or of each Provincial Government. The organizations which do not register shall be punished for unauthorized organization and assembly.

2. In order to preserve the sanctity of the establishment of the place of register of the voters, the place of voting, the place of the opening of the ballot, the office of the Election Committee, the auditoriums, schools and other buildings under the use of election tactics, assembly, demonstration or tumult near those establishments, or loitering or intrusion in these establishments, are strictly forbidden.

3. Actions infringing or threatening the registration of candidates or the freedom of their election tactics, are strictly forbidden.

4. Any action hindering the execution of the official duties of the Election Committees or the officials connected to the election, is strictly forbidden.

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5. Possession of weapons, terror, violence, threatening, arrest or confinement of any individual or organization by any member of youth organization are strictly forbidden.

6. Actions buying off votes by money, goods, entertainment, violence or threatening, or forcing abstention from voting, are strictly forbidden.

7. As the struggles between factions will undoubtedly be open, realizing the political confusion, you should through your training and discipline exercise reserve.

8. Though we cannot help being indignant against reaction-aryism from the viewpoint of justice to the nation, members of your organizations should be fully and thoroughly awake to obtain the moral fruits of serenity, composure, perseverance and deliberation by viewing with superiority the international conditions and social realities.

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