

American Delegation
US - USSR JOINT COMMISSION
APO 235

Spec. Report 104

26 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL HODGE

SUBJECTS: (As listed below)

I. UNTCOK Chairman makes oral answer to NEC (National Election Committee).

At 1500 hours Mr. CHYUN, Kyu Hong, Secretary General of NEC called on Mr. Paul-Boncour at the Chosun Hotel. (Paul-Boncour had asked me to get hold of NEC Liaison Officer in order that he could give him an oral answer to NEC's letter regarding postponement of election date. Unable to get the liaison officer, Mr. KIM, the Secretary General, Mr. CHYUN, was sent.)

The conversation was essentially as follows:

Paul-Boncour: I have received your letter (had copy of letter in hand). I wish to say as chairman of the Commission, that we have no observation to make (meaning an observation on the letter). It is a matter entirely for General Hodge. As a matter of fact, it would have been more proper if you had sent General Hodge the letter and a copy to me.

Mr. CHYUN: We did send General Hodge such a letter, but I thought the matter was of some concern to UNTCOK since they had made an announcement.

Paul-Boncour: No, that misunderstanding happened because Mr. Menon, at Lake Success, after conversation with the Commission, had announced the date of the 9th of May. Then we here in the Commission had also said the 9th of May. (Mr. Paul-Boncour was a little mixed up. He refers to the statements made by Dr. Menon and Dr. Hoo when they said "not later than 10 May.") Then General Hodge said the 9th of May. But really this matter of a date is not our concern. It can be May, it can be June, or
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Memo (cont'd)

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it can be April. It is a matter entirely for General Hodge. Personally, I think you are going to have difficulty in keeping the date 24 May.

Mr. CHYUN: Yes, I think you are right, but the 9th of May was just too soon. The 24th of May is better.

Paul-Boncour: As I said, you should have sent the letter to General Hodge with a copy to me. But then that is a matter of form. It is all right the way it is. Our answer is that "we have no observation to make," which personally I tell you means that we have no objections.

I would have replied to your letter in writing except that this being a holiday for our Commission, I could not get a secretary. But the main thing was to get you an answer of some sort. I thought an oral answer better because it was quicker. No, this is not the Commission's concern. We have stated that we will observe the elections. General Hodge can change the date if he likes. Tell your Committee this.

II. * * * * *

/s/ John Weckerling
JOHN WECKERLING
Brigadier General, U. S. A.

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