

1948. 04. 00. (미상일)선거일 변경의 주요 요인에 관한 미 연락장교 비
망록

MEMORANDUM BY THE U. S. LIAISON OFFICER

Of the Principal Factors Motivating a

Change in the Election Date

On 12 March 1948 United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea submitted to this Command a document called "Recommendations presented by the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea on the election law and the election regulations". This document contained no less than 74 detailed recommendations. On the basis of these recommendations the KILA Law and the draft of the Election Regulations was completely redrafted. With the exception of one recommendation concerning the disenfranchisement of so-called "collaborators" all recommendations of UNTCOK were incorporated into the Final text of the election law and the election regulations. After numerous conferences the Election Liaison Committee and the secretary of sub-committee 3 of UNTCOK reached on 18 March 1948 an agreement concerning the text of the election law and the election regulations. In the following days these documents were translated into Korean. Accordingly less than 7 weeks were at the disposal of the National Election Committee and the agencies of Military Government in charge of the administrative problems of the election to prepare the election and to carry out an extensive educational program.

Since the election law provided that registration of voters shall be accomplished during a period of 10 days beginning 40 days before the day of election (Section 15) the following steps had to be taken within a period of less than 10 days:

- 1) establishment of electoral districts in accordance with Section 10 Election Law;
 - 2) division of the electoral districts into voting districts in accordance with Section 10 Election Law;
 - 3) organization of the National Election Committee, 10 provincial election committees, 200 electoral district election
- Inclosure No. 65

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committees and approximately 10,000 voting district election committees including the appointment of almost 100,000 election officials in accordance with the highly complicated provisions of Sections 15-23 Election Law;

4) printing of 10,000,000 registration forms and several thousand poll registers and distribution of these documents to approximately 10,000 voting district election committees; (Appendix I and II Election Regulations);

5) determination of registration places and public announcement of registration places by posters and newspapers in accordance with Section 6 Election Regulations;

6) distribution of copies of the Election Law and the Election Regulations to the election committees on the provincial, district and village level;

7) instruction of the administrative heads and election officials on all levels of government.

On the basis of a provincial text of the election law certain measures such as the printing of the registration forms and poll registers and their distribution, the determination of the registration places and the instruction of the heads of the administrative agencies had started prior to the final approval of the text of the election law and the election regulations. Nevertheless it appeared more than doubtful whether it was possible to open the registration places on 30 March 1948 and to carry out the provisions of the election law concerning registration in the 10 days period beginning on 30 March. It should be noted that UNTCOK had insisted on the division of GUN, PU and KU with a population exceeding 150,000 into two and more electoral districts, a recommendation which resulted in the creation of approximately 80 electoral districts which did not correspond to established administrative units. The establishment of voting districts with a population of not more than 2,000 resulted in considerable difficulties in rural areas and made the public announcement of registration places by posters and newspapers virtually impossible.

Inclosure No. 65

- 2 -

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Even more serious was the situation in the field of registration of candidates and the preparation of ballots. In contrast to the KILA Law the Election Law provided for the right of each person whose registration as a candidate had been rejected by the electoral district election committee to appeal his case to the National Election Committee. In addition the Election Law had replaced the write-in ballots by ballots on which the names of the duly nominated candidates and a symbol for each candidate had to be printed. Accordingly different ballots must be prepared and printed for each electoral district. The printing of such ballots cannot begin before the names of the duly nominated candidates have been reported to the election agency in charge of supervising the printing of the ballots. Under normal conditions the names and symbols of the various candidates will be known 22 days prior to the election; in cases of appeal the final list of the candidates nominated in the electoral district concerned may be ready only about two weeks before the election. It was felt that these periods are too short to guarantee the distribution of ballots to each polling place prior to the day of election.

- 3 -

Inclosure No. 65

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