

R C A RADIOGRAM
Seoul, 12 April 1948

Press Omnipress New York

UN Commission on April 5th commenced to observe on the spot pre-elections situation sending three field groups of observers into that portion of Korea opened to it.

After a week north of Seoul under the 38th, southwest, and southeast, three groups returned to Seoul on the 10th, having interviewed American as well as Korean authorities, Chairmen and representatives of Election Committee. They visited voting districts chosen at random to observe the conduct of registration and the freedom of atmosphere.

Next week groups will again take to the field to obtain information concerning methods and progress of the registration of voters and candidates.

By the end of April the Commission will be ready to decide on its attitude as provided by its resolution of March 12 "to observe the elections announced by Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces in Korea, to be held on May 10, provided the Commission has ascertained that elections will be held in a free atmosphere wherein democratic rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly would be recognized and respected".

The three field observation groups for their work used cars, special trains, and airplanes provided by U.S. authorities in order to reach the furthest points, including an island in the extreme

279

DECLASSIFIED Authority <i>111 826518</i>

southwest, Cheju Do, where guerillas 1,000 strong have taken to mountains opposing local authorities.

An efficient railway system allowed the Commission to move about easily and comfortably in the shortest of time and to fulfill its program to visit all provincial capitals and voting districts in the country during April.

/s/ Grand

DECLASSIFIED
Authority MM 82651P

279