

PART I
SOUTH KOREASECRETFrom: 231200/I Apr. 48
To : 301200/I Apr. 48Headquarters, USAFIK
Seoul, Korea
30 April 1948No. 137
Maps: KOREA 1/250,000
East ASIA, 1/1,000,000A. ARMED FORCES1. Strength (Secret)

Police:	34,330
Constabulary:	27,899 (includes 3,710 unsworn recruits)
Coast Guard	2,859

2. Operational Activity (Confidential)

Three border incidents occurred this week in which North Korean constabularymen engaged in a firefight with a South Korean police patrol on 24 April and attacked two South Korean installations near the border on 27 April.

On 24 April five North Korean constabularymen escorted seven North Korean farmers south of the 38th parallel in the vicinity of SANGSUNEE RI (1100-1690) apparently for the purpose of working in a field allegedly belonging to the North Korean farmers. When a patrol of four South Korean police attempted to investigate they were fired on by the North Korean constabularymen. The firefight lasted about 20 minutes. The North Koreans withdrew north of the parallel. No casualties were reported.

On 27 April a North Korean constabulary force of unreported strength attacked the PAEKCHON (932-1698) police station and killed two South Korean police. Eight other South Korean police were seriously injured, four of whom are not expected to live.

On 27 April a North Korean constabulary force of unreported strength attacked the substation at YANG CHANG (coordinates unknown but near PAEKCHON). One South Korean policeman was slightly injured before the North Korean constabularymen fell back across the parallel. South Korean police report that members of this North Korean constabulary force wore South Korean police uniforms.

COMMENT: This is the first report of any border incident involving North Korean constabularymen where they were clothed in South Korean police uniforms.

Delayed Report

A delayed report from the border, not carried in last week's summary (see Part I, Par A, 2., W/S #136), reveals that a member of the right-wing UNITED YOUNG MEN'S PARTY was killed by a North Korean constabularyman near HWA CHUN (904.1-1696.2) at 200500 April.

Attacks on American Personnel

On 24 April a US Army C-47 airplane was fired on by two snipers as it took off from the CHEJU airstrip on CHEJU-DØ. (F-6)

B. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE1. Political Activitya. Candidacy Registrations

The Office of the Chief Advisor, MG, has released statistics on the number of candidates according to declared political affiliation. Data is through 301200 April.

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>NO. OF CAND.</u>	<u>POLITICAL COMPLEXION</u>
NSAKI	239	Rightist
Hankook Dem. Party	91	Rightist
Korean Ind. Party	7	Rightist; leader KIM Koo aligned with communists on election issue.
Dai Dong Youth Corps	89	Rightist
Tai Han Labor League	22	Rightist Labor Union
Women's Nat'l Party	2	Rightist; Louise YIM, Rhee lobby in Wash., was former president.
Min Chuk Youth Corps (Korea Nat'l Youth)	21	MG sponsored group, supposedly non-partisan, probably rightists.
Buddhist Organizations	5	Not known whether candidates belong to communist dominated religious groups or right wing groups.
Christian Organizations	10	Not know whether candidates belong to communist or right wing groups.
Confucian Organizations	4	Not known whether candidates belong to communist or right wing groups.
Chun Do Kyo Young Friend's Party	1	Moderate left.
Minor Parties	34	
Non-Partisan	<u>409</u> 934	
<u>WOMEN CANDIDATES</u> (included in the total 934)		
Women's Nat'l Party	2	
YWCA	1	
NSAKI Women's Assn	13	
Non partisan	<u>3</u> 19	

COMMENT: The original number of 939 candidates has been decreased by three known assassinations and two withdrawals. RHEE-rightists, under the master's direction, on 22 April decided to run only one candidate in districts where RHEE's informants say moderates are seeking office, lest a split right-wing vote permit communists and moderates to win. The press has already noted the withdrawal of KIM Hu Ok, Dai Dong Youth Corps; "with the aim of preventing the confusion of excessive candidates."

Most recent rightist position in the press is probably that contained in the threat of YANG On Cheng, NSAKI Propaganda Chief. Declaring that Danny CHOI's registration (sole RHEE opponent in the latter's district) was more consonant with personal ambition than with Korean independence, YANG stated that if such an attitude should continue, NSAKI will boycott the election. Little significance is attached to this threat, for Korean politicians don't toss away sure bets.

1/ Delayed reports indicate dissension within the rightists ranks. NSAKI, fearing that its Hankook staff members would swing support to Hankook candidates, decided to oust those members but was checked by RHEE, who enjoys Hankook financial backing. Certain branches of the Korean Independence Party intended seceding in order to join the Hankook Democratic Party, where they find harmony in views supporting the elections and opposing the Pyongyang conference.

Early reports indicate eleven probable communist candidates. They are regarded as exceptions to the general policy of boycotting and sabotaging the election. In support of this view is the fact that in at least six localities where communists are very active they are permitting local rightists candidates to run unopposed. In addition, reports have mentioned communist instructions to vote for the Peoples Committee, to cast blank ballots, and to write in the names of individuals who are not candidates.

b. Developments in the North-South Conference

(1) Recapitulation: The Joint North-South Conference opened in PYONGYANG on 19 April 1948. The meeting was called to order by a man described as "the old KIM Il Sung" chosen to speak because he was "the oldest man present." (There is no information available to indicate just who is meant by this reference to "old KIM Il Sung." It is possible that belated notice is being given by the Soviet Command to the doubts which have been expressed by many Koreans concerning the identity of the present Chairman of the Peoples Committee who bears the same name.) This KIM presented the conference with the problem of devising methods of (a) finding a way to oppose the South Korean elections, (b) securing the withdrawal of foreign troops, (c) establishing an independent, unified Korea without foreign interference. In typical Soviet fashion, all speeches and commentaries on the conference broadcast by the PYONGYANG Radio did not deviate from the pattern established by the old KIM. The most important speech of the conference was given, as could be expected, by young KIM Il Sung, the Chairman of the Peoples Committee. 1/ Following the young KIM's speech, there were no speeches of importance broadcast with the exception of those of the South Korean delegates (see paragraph (2) below). The conference is believed to have adjourned on 24 April 1948. During periods when the convention was not in session, the delegates were treated to tours of model industrial plants and villages in the vicinity of PYONGYANG. On 25 April the delegates were given a demonstration of communist control when 340,000 people in Pyongyang demonstrated their approval of the resolutions passed by the conference (see paragraph (3) below).

(2) Activities of the South Korean "Representatives": Two weeks after the North Koreans announced their plans and invitations for the North-South Conference, the PYONGYANG hosts had more than enough guests of varying affiliations to provide a claim for "broad" South Korean participation in this Soviet-engineered scheme to defeat the work of the UN Commission.

1/ See W/S #136 for details of KIM Il Sung's 19 (?) April speech.

KIM Kyu Sik arrived late (W/S 136, Part I, B, 1, b). At noon of the day he crossed the parallel (21 April) North Korean guards received instructions to clamp shut the arteries which permitted the steady influx of coat-tail riders. Among the participants who were thus refused entry to North Korea were representatives of such nondescript organizations as: Society for the Renovation of the Land of Hibiscus, Sam Il Friends Association and the Students League of the Principle of Three Equalities. A number of newspapermen were also excluded.

The minutiae who took advantage of the invitation (open to all who opposed the 10 May election) were counted. For Soviet purposes, their mere presence sufficed (see par (4)).

The more important guests were heard. KIM Koo, CHO So Ang, HONG Myong Hi and LEE Kerk No made statements which suited the unilateral aureole of magnanimity which enveloped non-Communist representatives. As expected, all speakers decried the division of their country. KIM Koo urged full, unselfish cooperation in eradicating the 38th parallel, "the mere existence of which worsens US-USSR relations." KIM Koo's speech concluded with a statement typical of the efforts of the wishful but wary non-Communists present at the confabulation:

"I am very happy to have this opportunity to exchange views concerning the unity and independence of our country... and at the same time mitigate the crisis existing between the United States and the Soviet Union."

The Soviet-prompted North Koreans showed no signs that they were ready to cooperate. Instead, they proceeded in the opposite direction and utilized the conference as an occasion for an intensification of their anti-American propaganda, thus divesting the meetings of all traces of diplomatic tactics.

KIM Kyu Sik, one of Korea's ablest conciliators, is known to have made one speech, and this one was not given at a meeting of the North-South leaders, but, according to PYONGYANG, at a dinner party given by Soviet puppet KIM Il Sung.

KIM Kyu Sik's address, like KIM Koo's, was largely a revelation of the emotion which had gripped the speaker during this momentous event.

Only one paragraph was inconsistent with the position of KIM Kyu Sik, which has been to find a solution to the Korean problem by facilitating an amicable resolution of the differences between the US and the Soviets. Radio PYONGYANG announced that KIM Kyu Sik stated, in part:

"North Korea has capabilities for independence, whereas South Korea is only receiving commodities and becoming indebted to the United States. North Korea will rise...South Korea will perish...."

COMMENT: This is the first indication of the possibility the KIM Kyu Sik is playing into Communist hands. It is probable, however, that KIM's statement was distorted in the Radio PYONGYANG version. It is reasonable to assume that if KIM Kyu Sik actually desired to express such a contrast between the potentialities for freedom in North and South Korea, he would have stated his opinions at one of the Conference sessions. If he had done so, the Communists would have loudly propagandized that statement rather than relying entirely on a dinner-party recitation.

(3) Conference Decision: On 26 April Radio PYONGYANG announced that "fifty-six political parties and social organizations of South and North Korea, having an aggregate membership of more than ten million, had taken the liberty to address a letter to the governments of the USSR and the United States, conveying the will of the Korean people."

The letter began with a review of the many frustrations which have obstructed the path to Korean Independence and (1) "unreservedly" declared that the "entire responsibility for the present insufferable political situation rests squarely on the American authorities," (2) the Korean people will do "their utmost" to prevent the holding of a "separate election" in South Korea, and (3) asserted that the "most simple, wise, fair and just way of settling the Korean issue" lies in "the implementation of the proposal of the Soviet government for the simultaneous withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea in order to give the Korean people the right to settle their own national problems."

On 28 April, Radio PYONGYANG announced that LYUH Woon Hong, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, and two other persons would deliver the message to General Hodge.

LYUH Woon Hong arrived in Seoul on 29 April and presented the letter, embodying the withdrawal proposal, to the US Consul.

COMMENT: Neither KIM Koo nor KIM Kyu Sik signed the letter. SONG Nam Hun, a secretary in the NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FEDERATION, signed for that organization. It is not known whether he signed in lieu of or despite protests of the NIF's chairman, KIM Kyu Sik.

KIM Kyu Sik's name was not among those mentioned by Radio PYONGYANG as having attended the 23 April session of the Conference, when the contents of this letter were agreed upon by the representatives."

(4) Meetings Continue: At the end of the brief broadcast which reported the adjournment of the conference it was announced that "meetings of the representatives are still proceeding." 1/

COMMENT: The size of the conference, reported to have consisted of 695 delegates -- from 16 political parties and 40 social organizations -- indicated that it was merely a hand-clapping group and that the real agreements would be made at meetings of the leaders. These meetings are expected to continue until the extraordinary session of the Peoples Assembly, which convened on 28 April, acts on the Provisional Constitution. Continued presence of South Korean delegates in PYONGYANG during the Assembly sessions will add substance to the myth of South Korean approval of the constitution.

(5) Conclusions: The speeches broadcast by Radio PYONGYANG, especially that of KIM Il Sung, were notable for their absolutely uncompromising attitude toward the Rightist and Moderate visitors from South Korea. It was considered possible that the North Korean leaders might make strategic retreats on some issues in order to insure the cooperation of KIM Koo and KIM Kyusic. Although concessions are still possible, there have been no indications of a Communist retreat.

The results of the conference appear to be as follows: (a) considerable grist has been added to the North Korean propaganda mill, (b) further basis has been provided for allegations that the South Korean elections are supported only by the extreme reactionaries, (c) most important, the conference and the meetings now in progress will be used as the foundation for claims that the Provisional Constitution has the support of all "democratic elements in South as well as North Korea."

1/ Source Radio PYONGYANG 2100 I 28 April 1948

2. Civil Unresta. Communists Poised for Attack

Reports that communists still planned to engage in intensified anti-election violence after 10 May were being relayed from the provinces to SEOUL up to the closing hours of April. Also, additional reports have been received that communist strategy calls for the main effort to be delivered on 09-10 May.

Information from centers of communist activity indicate that all communist units have been thoroughly organized and briefed as to attack operations. Agitators and armed action squads are reported to be awaiting zero-hour bonfire signals which will burn from mountain tops the length of South KOREA.

Aside from CHEJU-DO, where local communist strength has already been committed (see Part I, par 2, b), communists will probably concentrate their efforts in the six southernmost provinces -- CHUNGCHONG-NAMDO, CHUNGCHONG-PUKTO, CHOLLA-NAMDO, CHOLLA-PUKTO, KYONGSANG-NAMDO and KYONGSANG-PUKTO. Of these, the two KYONGSANG provinces have so far exhibited the most potential strength in personnel and arms. South central and southeastern KYONGSANG-PUKTO, a communist stronghold area in the days of the Japanese occupation and site of the October 1946 communist-led riots, is expected to feel the heaviest weight of the communist efforts within the KYONGSANGs.

b. Constabulary Moves Against CHEJU-DO Communists

On 27 April the South Korean constabulary began patrol operations against communist guerrillas hidden in the CHEJU-DO mountains. By the end of this week it had become apparent that communist operations had slackened off in the face of the constabulary operations.

Sixty people have been killed on CHEJU-DO since 03 April when the communists initiated operations on the island. Communists killed eight police in at least 22 attacks against police, killed 27 rightists and members of rightist and police families, raided six registration booths, attacked two towns, continually disrupted highway and telephone communications and probed South Korean constabulary strength on three occasions. During this same period police killed 25 people associated with the guerrilla bands.

c. A Week's Violence In South Korea

Most of this week's communist-inspired violence on the mainland occurred in KYONGSANG-PUKTO, and that province's most active area was east of TEGU (1150-1430) in and around KYONGJU GUN (1218-1436).

A summary of acts of violence involving communists for the week is as follows:

1. Four attacks on police boxes: two in KYONGSANG-PUKTO, one in CHOLLA-NAMDO and one in CHOLLA-PUKTO.
2. One attack upon a town on CHEJU-DO.
3. Twenty-three rioters killed by police: ten on CHEJU-DO, nine in KYONGSANG-PUKTO and four in CHOLLA-NAMDO.
4. Ten rightists and members of rightist and police families killed: four in KYONGSANG-PUKTO, one in CHUNGCHONG-PUKTO, one in SEOUL, and four in CHOLLA-NAMDO.
5. Twenty-three assorted demonstrations, disorders and arson cases.

d. Right Wing Internecine Violence

Pre-election tension within pro-election rightist ranks has caused three recent internecine incidents -- a near riot between members of the NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ACCELERATION OF KOREAN INDEPENDENCE and the UNITED YOUNG MEN'S PARTY in CHUNCHON (1060-1680), a murder in the ONGJIN (840-1680) area where members of the UYMP beat a fellow-member to death, and a beating incident in TAEJON (1040-1490) where police arrested four UYMP members for public assault against members of the KOREAN NATIONAL YOUTH CORPS.

e. Delayed Reports Covering Last Week

Delayed reports of incidents that occurred during the week ending 16 April which were not carried in last week's summary (see Part I, 2b, 2c, and 2d., W/S #136) are:

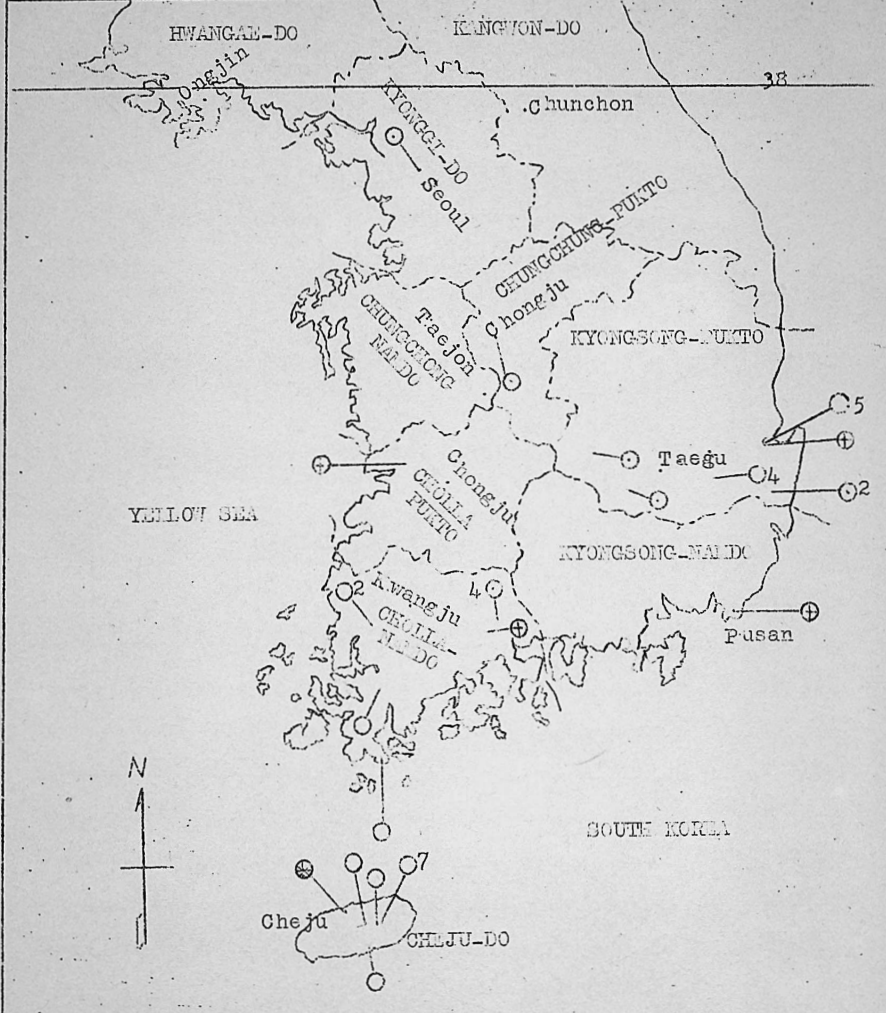
1. Two small towns on CHEJU-DO attacked by communist guerrilla bands.
2. Eight attacks on police boxes: four on CHEJU-DO, two in CHOLLA-NAMDO, one in CHUNGCHONG-NAMDO and one in KYONGSANG-NAMDO.
3. Eleven communists killed: seven on CHEJU-DO, two in CHOLLA-NAMDO, one in CHUNGCHONG-PUKTO, and one in KYONGSANG-PUKTO.
4. Fourteen rightists and members of rightist and police families killed last week, in addition to the 14 already reported killed: five in KYONGSANG-PUKTO, four on CHEJU-DO, two in CHOLLA-NAMDO and three in KYONGSANG-NAMDO.
5. Seventeen assorted demonstrations, disorders and cases of arson.

1948 Communist Activities in South KOREA

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR*	TOTAL
Attacks on Police	0	130	118	48	296
Police Killed	0	33	20	15	68
Rioters Killed	1	74	73	60	208
Non-Rioters Killed	1	14	14	68	97
Disorders, Demonstrations, School Strikes,					
Attacks on Rightist Offices and Homes	6	125	76	107	314
Attacks on Government Buildings	0	9	14	1	24
Sabotage (Comm)	14	53	58	19	144
Sabotage (RR lines)	1	12	6	0	19
Sabotage (RR locomotives)	0	50	0	0	50
Sabotage (roads)	0	13	5	1	19
Sabotage (bridges)	0	6	9	5	20
Strikes	0	14	6	3	23

*Incomplete

CIVIL UNREST CHART



- COMMUNIST KILLED
- ⊕ ATTACKS ON POLICE BOXES
- ⊙ NON-RIFELERS KILLED
- ⊛ ATTACKS ON TOWN

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C. WAR POTENTIAL1. Economic

The outstanding issue of the Bank of Chosun continued to decline during the month of April and now stands at 28.6 billion won. The decline for the period 01-27 April amounted to approximately 700 million won.

The primary reason for the drop continues to be the increased revenues from SKIG. Conversion of 100-won notes will cause a further decline, but as of this date the amount can not be reasonably estimated.

2. Cost of Living

Seoul rice prices were relatively steady for the period, with 660 won appearing as the mode.

The 25 cost-of-living items checked for the period show a fairly steady buyers' market. Seasonal foods continue to advance slightly.*

Rice Price Summary

<u>AREA</u>	<u>PRICE (won)</u>				
	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>'23 Apr</u>
<u>SEOUL</u>	750	743	746	707	660
<u>KANGWON-DO</u>	632	791	860	772	
<u>CHUNGCHONG-PUKTO</u>	600	586	657	654	
<u>CHUNGCHONG-NAMDO</u>	650	630	662	613	
<u>KYONGSANG-FUKTO</u>	534	541	550	502	
<u>KYONGSANG-NAMDO</u>	575	650	707	650	
<u>CHOLLA-PUKTO</u>	634	608	608	550	
<u>CHOLLA-NAMDO</u>	575	558	575	508	
<u>CHEJU-DO</u>	729	733	680	617	
<u>AVERAGE</u>	631	648	676	619	

Official Price - 140 won

Source - National Price Administration, SKIG.

*Cost of Living Items Checked

Polished Rice	Matches	Flannelette
Barley	Beef	Kwang-mok (cloth)
Wheat	Pork	Silk Myungju (cloth)
Soy-beans	Eggs	Silk sooksoo (cloth)
Red beans	Korean cabbage	Cotton socks
Dried myungtai (fish)	Radish	Anthracite
Soy Sauce	Rubber shoes	Firewood
Sugar	Laundry soap	Charcoal
Salt		

3. <u>Surrendered and Disarmed</u>	-	No change:	179,376
4. <u>Progress of Repatriation</u>	-	<u>This Period</u>	<u>To Date</u>
<u>Japanese Civilians Arriving from</u> <u>N of 38° N KOREA, CHINA and MANCHURIA</u>		0	288,525
<u>Japanese Evacuated to JAPAN</u>		0	883,891
<u>Total Koreans Returning</u>		1,689*	2,099,307
<u>Total Repatriates Moved Since 15 August 1945</u>			20,980,505
5. <u>Koreans Apprehended While Attempting Illegal</u> <u>Entry to JAPAN</u>		0	22,728

*Incomplete report

D. PSYCHOLOGICALa. The Press

The publishers and chief editors of three left-wing papers have been arrested for the publication of inflammatory remarks in their editions of 25 April. Those arrested, by the Metropolitan police, were from the staffs of Korean Central News, Independent News and The New Nation News.

The remarks for which the editors were arrested were carried as editorials in the 25 April editions, one of which was entitled "appeal by Communist Labor Unions" and called for 01 May demonstrations.

b. Press Analysis

No subject has so aroused the press of South KOREA as that of the treatment of Koreans in JAPAN. Rightists, communists and moderates have never seen eye-to-eye on domestic problems, but when the Japanese come into the picture they stand perfectly united. This is the only subject to date that has consolidated the Korean press. Rightists and moderates, while crying equally as loud as the communists, failed to make an equal quantity of political hay.

Maintaining that the problem of Koreans in JAPAN will not be solved by either the unilateral election or by a separate government, the leftist CHOSUN CHOONG ANG ILBO kyanoted the communist campaign to make capital of the disturbances.

Communist and all forms of totalitarian government have always used a common enemy to consolidate dissentient groups, and the plight of "our brothers" in JAPAN is no exception. The PYUNG WHA ILBO, a rightist paper, has sounded the alarm that JAPAN is now preparing for World War III and dreaming of control over the FAR EAST. Calling the present situation in KOREA a small local political struggle, they said it should be put in the background and Koreans should remember the past 40 years. Taking an unusual position for a rightist paper, PYUNG WHA ILBO said, "We should not depend upon any foreign power to reconstruct our fatherland on the basis of racial spirit but should take measures against the evil plot of JAPAN, and if not, the small nations of the Orient will be enslaved again."

MIN Yung Kun, the publisher of MIN SOUNG ILBO in TAEJU reported that communists were genuinely alarmed, over the rumor that JAPAN was building a powerful war machine and intends to once more dominate KOREA. Left unsaid but intimated, "under an American supervised and sponsored government." (B-2)

COMMENT: The Korean reaction to the incidents occurring in Japan illustrates the ability of communists to unite all elements in the exploitation of a situation.

NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE. Full coverage of all events of the PYONGYANG Conference still appeared to be the order of the day in most South Korean press rooms (see par B, 1, b).

Support of the conference continues to be with the communists, moderates, and dissentient rightists with the extreme right-wing giving the parley the cold shoulder. The leftist press has reacted to the conference as expected by the right-wing continues to offer surprises. The widely-read CHOSUN ILBO reports that people are staring at the conference with great attention regardless of whether they support or oppose it. After a neutral start, the considered opinion of the Korean editorial writer is that Koreans have to try to discuss their own problems due to the repeated failures of the negotiations between the US and RUSSIA.

The paper calls on the communists in North and South Korea to do their best to find a measure that will remove the crisis and prevent the land from becoming an international battlefield. The leftist were charged to mind the future of the whole nation and not act as spokesmen of Soviet policy.

Seeing the possibility that either the UNITED STATES or RUSSIA would reject conference results if their respective governments were denounced in the conference, the CHOSUN ILBO could see only a dark future for Koreans if such a thing happened -- the 38th parallel would become an iron wall and KOREA would disintegrate into an armed camp of both forces.

Calling for compromise, the editorial laments that the conference should certainly respond to the voice of the good people who imagine peace, even if in a dream.

DUPLICATE PARTY CANDIDATES Concentrating on the election, the extreme right-wing press called for the elimination of all rightists in excess of one candidate in each district. In addition to calling for the elimination of duplication, they called for the elimination of duplicity.

The elimination of duplicate candidates seem to be having some result in that four candidates have withdrawn.

ILLEGAL PUBLICATIONS Still another underground paper appeared during the period, this one with the name of AI KOOK JA (The Patriot). Following the usual communist line, it was "Mansoi" for all of its program and "Smash" for everything that it opposed.

AMERICAN DEPENDENTS At the end of April all metropolitan papers excitedly published a UP dispatch from WASHINGTON stating that no more American dependents would come to KOREA. Almost hopefully most papers questioned, "the reason that dependents are not coming to KOREA is that, at last, the occupation troops are going to be withdrawn?"

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E. SABOTAGE AND ESPIONAGE

At 281000 April a Korean was arrested in an US Army engineer area in YONGDONG PO (990-1639) while pouring gasoline on a lumber pile, with evident intent to sabotage.

Sabotage against wire communications was continued this week. Five such incidents were reported from the following: three from KYONGSANG-PUKTO, one from KYONGGI-DO, one from CHUNGCHONG-NAMDŎ and one from CHEJU-DO.

No cases of espionage were reported during the week.

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