

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN KOREA
APO 235 Unit 2

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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Report of Special Investigation - Cheju Do Political Situation

DECLASSIFIED
Authority *NND 745070*

MEMO NO.	DATE	FROM	TO	MEMORANDUM
1	1 May 1948	Adviser, Dept. of Justice	(1) OSI <i>SK</i> (2) <i>CS</i>	<p>(1) A Report of Special Investigation - Cheju Do Political Situation was received in this office on 29 March 1948. By the report this office was directed to have an investigation made of the overcrowded condition of the police jails and report on or before 24 April 1948.</p> <p>(2) The report was returned by this office with an indorsement on 26 April 1948, two days late. This delay was due to the press of other business during the period on the part of the person who was handling the matter.</p> <p>(3) At the time the report was received, we had a conference with the Chief Prosecutor of the Supreme Court and requested him to dispatch an investigator to Cheju Do. The earliest plane reservation we were able to obtain for the investigator was for 7 April, 1948. On that date the investigator boarded the regular bus for Kimpo airstrip, but the bus was late and he was not allowed to board the plane. Reservation was then made for another date. On that date his reservation was cancelled by Lt. Col. Duffy of OCA, who needed all available space for transportation of election material and policemen (because of riots). Col. Duffy postponed the departure of the investigator from day to day for the same reason. We withheld making report until the last day allowed, in hopes that the man would be able to get transportation. Finally Col. Duffy advised that the investigator be sent by train and ship.</p> <p>(4) Lee Ho, Prosecutor of the Seoul Court of Review, a high ranking and competent official was selected to make the investigation because of its importance. He has not left yet because of transportation difficulties. He has expressed extreme reluctance to go by Coast Guard boat because of the complete lack of service and accommodations on those boats and because of the discomfort and loss of face in making the trip on one of them. This matter has been checked with advisers to the Coast Guard and it is believed that his contention is reasonable. The matter of transportation has also been discussed with advisers in the Department of Transportation from whom it was learned that boats on the new Rainbow run to Cheju Do, are very little better than the Coast Guard vessels and have accommodations which are not as good as steerage accommodations. From the oriental standpoint it is apparent that a high official would lose considerable face in traveling in this manner and would not start his investigation in Cheju Do under very auspicious circumstances. It is therefore proposed to send him by airplane as soon as the bottleneck in that type of transportation is relieved by conclusion of election activities. We cannot ask the Prosecutor of the Cheju District Court to conduct the investigation because he himself is suspected of improper action in connection with the subject matter of the report and because he is under investigation for other improper activities.</p>

(5) Final report of Lee Ho's investigation will be forwarded immediately after the election.

John W. Connelly, Jr.

John W. Connelly, Jr.,
Major JAGD
Adviser to the Director

2 OSI C/S
-I9

1. Noted

2. The comment in C.4 # 78 is "an answer", attention is invited to the fact that many delays in the return of reports from Department of Justice have been experienced.

3. This action may result in corrective measures being established. JK

1.3 ref - Rpt. of Sp. Invt
Chief.

3 O/S OSI

Interesting. In the past month many people besides Electric Officials have gone to Cheju. People of this type don't hesitate to call me when personal services are concerned but I recall no request from Justice for assistance in carrying out the Bureau's directive. CB has gotten after Justice Investigators are now in Cheju File JK

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