

b. The People(1) The National Police Force of South Korea

High ranking members of the National Police Force are co-operating with MG in democratizing the national organization which, previous to the American occupation, was ruthless in its methods. Beginning on 19 November 46, American experts in police work have arrived in Korea to assist in training the police force in modern, scientific methods. Numbering twenty-four at the present time, two of whom are women, the American criminologists are acting as supervisors in the three police zones into which South Korea is divided:

Zone #1

Division M - City of SEUL
Division I - KYONGGI DO
Division B - KANGWON DO

Zone #2

Division D - CHUNGCHONG PUKTO
Division E - KYONGSANG PUKTO
Division G - KYONGSANG NAMDO

Zone #3

Division C - CHUNGCHONG NAMDO
Division F - CHOLLA PUKTO
Division H - CHOLLA NAMDO and
JEJU ISLAND INSPECTION COMMAND

• 학생들 반미 시위(1947. 2. 16)

CONFIDENTIAL1. Civil Disturbances

CHEJU (950-1150) (33°30'N-126°32'E)

101300 February 47 - Approximately 250 students demonstrated against an MG unit which broke up the demonstration and drove the students from CHEJU. Later, the students set a grass fire which was extinguished without damage.

• 민간인 소요 / 제주도 3·1사건(1947. 3. 2)

1. Civil Disturbances

CHEJU (950-1150) (33°30'N-126°32'E)

011000 March 47 - A mob, assumed to be Leftists, attacked the police building and were met with police rifle fire which resulted in the death of five rioters and the wounding of an unknown number. US troops are reported as having assisted in the dispersal of the mob, but there is no indication that they resorted to the use of weapons.

• 제주 총파업(1947. 3. 16)

4. CIVIL RELATIONSa. The Press

March 01 incidents received fresh impetus in the press as a result of the general strike on CHEJU DO (see par 4b), and Chief of Police CHANG, Taik Sang's controversy with the police reporters as to the fixing of the blame for the deaths in SEUL on that date. In both instances, the police were accused by the papers of inflicting unnecessary deaths.

Chief CHANG's report, to the Press, of occurrences on March 01 ran afoul of an eyewitness account issued with the byline of "Metropolitan Police Reporters" (see par. 4a, W/S #18), in which the police claims were refuted. To this Chief CHANG replied, "I sent a notice to the metropolitan police reporters because I heard that they would publish a report on their investigation of the March 01 incident contrary to my note. An individual or a newspaper has permission to publish against my note but the metropolitan police reporters will not be permitted to do so. It makes it appear as though there are two police systems when contradictory notes are issued at the same time. ...Therefore I forbid the pressmen to enter the police office." To this the Press replied, "The mission of the correspondents consists in conveying public opinion in a constructive and critical manner and in giving spur to the authorities concerned for social advances.The police insulted us and restricted reasonable freedom of speech. Our responsibility and pride made us close the door of the pressmen's room until you acknowledge your fault."

b. The People

(1) General Strike Reported at CHEJU City

From the island province of CHEJU DO comes a report that a general strike is in progress in the capital city, CHEJU, which has partially paralyzed finance, transportation, communications, manufacturing, education, small business, food distribution, and has extended to approximately sixty percent of the Korean provincial officials. Reportedly beginning on 12 March, the general strike is believed to be Communist inspired, but participated in by both Left and Right as a protest against the killing of six persons and the wounding of six others during unauthorized demonstrations and rioting on 01 March in CHEJU City. (See Incl. #1 and par. 4b, W/S 77)

Industrial leaders and MG officials were called to a meeting with the Korean Provincial Governor on 15 March in order that he might hear their opinions in regard to the return to work of their employees on 17 March. The following were the results of the meeting:

- (1) Those expecting their employees to return to work on 17 March:

Harbor Master
Federation Financial Association
Chosun Industrial Bank
Tax Office
North GUN Officer
Chosun Mutual Bank
Mayor's Office (CHEJU City)
Bureau of Communications

- (2) Those who expected their employees to continue to strike:

Heads of North, South and East Primary Schools
CHEJU Branch, Federation Financial Association
Monopoly Bureau
Provincial Food Bureau
Post Office

- (3) Those who were uncertain as to the action employees would take:

South KOREA Electric Company
CHEJU Alcohol Company

Following the meeting, a Military Government officer interrogated the Korean Provincial Governor as to his attitude toward the strike.

The Governor reportedly expressed himself as being unsympathetic, believing that it was unjustified; he volunteered to make such an announcement to the press.

The scrutiny of nine petitions reaching the office of the Provincial Governor (American) indicates that the political complexion of their authors is extreme Left Wing. The petitions unanimously demand that the police chief be discharged, that policemen be discharged; that pro-Japanese be ousted from the police force and that those policemen who fired the fatal shots -- actually, their identities are not known in all cases -- be criminally prosecuted. In almost every instance, demands are made to better the conditions of teachers and faculty in the schools; in most of the petitions, this phrase appears: "Unveil (or object to) the SEOUL National University plan."

1-CHEJU (950-1150)(33°30'N-126°32'E) 4

Wrathful indignation directed against the police was reportedly precipitated by unfortunate events which arose out of specifically forbidden, Leftist-sponsored, Sam Il Day demonstrations. Acting contrary to orders of American MG officers, thousands of singing, flag bearing demonstrators reportedly converged upon the city square in which is located the provincial capitol, District #1 police station and the jail. At another point, another unauthorized column approached the Inspection Command (police) Station with the supposed intent of attack. A mounted policeman, enroute to the District #1 station to report, slightly injured a child who inadvertently ran into his horse. A jeering crowd, estimated at less than two hundred, followed him to the District #1 police building. Those on guard assumed that it was an attack and opened fire. Previous to this instant, demonstrators had been marching in an "S" shaped column around the square, reportedly veering closer to the jail with the constant threat of attack. Tense, and experienced with the brutal potential of the Communist dominated Democratic Youth Alliance --- these policemen were in training at TAEJON during the fall riots -- police guards opened fire and dispersed the crowd. The column that had threatened the Inspection Command Station was dispersed without reported casualties.

A second incident contributed to the mounting animosity against the local police. Previous to 01 March, a policeman had incurred a fracture in a vehicle accident and was placed in a hospital close to the city square. Fearing trouble, two policemen were stationed at the hospital as a precaution in case of March first rioting. Following the shooting mentioned above, two demonstrators were carrying a wounded comrade toward the hospital. The nervous guard outside opened fire, wounding one; the guard on the inside post, hearing the firing, ran out and wounded the other.

COMMENT: More detailed information as to the general strike in CHEJU City is lacking due to a partial breakdown in communications with that city. The most recent reports indicate that the strike is abating. The province of CHEJU DO is known as a Left Wing stronghold with a reported seventy percent of its population being sympathizers or affiliates with Left Wing parties. Notable is the fact that this strike indicates what can happen in a Korean community when the majority of the populace, either Right or Left, obdurately support what they believe to be just demands. As to the police action: the shooting which occurred at the hospital seems irreconcilable with rational thinking. However, it must be borne in mind that those who reportedly did the firing in CHEJU City had been trained in TAEJON and will long remember the profane atrocities committed against fellow policemen by Leftist rioters in the fall of 1946. The supposed proximate cause of the unfortunate situation: Leftist demonstrations contrary to an express order prohibiting them -- the same reason which resulted in other deaths in South KOREA on 01 March.

• 총파업 / 증문지서 발포사건(1947. 3. 23)