

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: "Cancel (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)

4. CIVIL RELATIONSa. The Press

There were several items of interest to the press during the period. These consisted of both local items and world wide news of Korean or possible Korean interest. Locally the results of the investigation of the strike on CHEJU DO by Pr. CHO, police head, terrorism, as manifested by the bombing of LYUH, Woon Heng's home, the departure of three Korean representatives to the Pan-Asiatic Conference, the shooting of two Russian soldiers on the 18th of March by South Korean police (see par 5), and, at the end of the period, the twenty-four hour rail and utilities strike were all given complete coverage in the newspapers.

b. The People(1) General Strike

Typical of the Communist pattern was the sudden strike following a period of asserted cooperation. The specious declaration of HU, Hun on 20 February 47 is worthy of note (par 4b (2) (a), W/S # 76) as was his denial on the same date of Left Wing responsibility for the school strikes. (See par 4b (3) W/S # 76). A further manifestation of cooperation was seen in the sudden display of Left Wing interest in the proposed general election as evidenced by the Democratic People's Front at their grand meeting of 29-30 January 47. (See par 6b, W/S # 73). Since sustained cooperation with MG has never been a part of the overall Communist plan, Left Wing expressions in this direction must be viewed with askance. Considering the Left Wing potential for violence and deception, there is a strong possibility that the apparent termination of this and the CHEJU 1 strike (par 4b (1), W/S # 79) may be cleverly planned feints; therefore, continued caution is believed necessary.

1. Civil Disturbances

CHEJU-DO (980-1130)(33°24'N-126°34'E)

19 March 47 - A CIC report dated 21 March states that information has been received from the National Police that 1,000 people approached CHUNG MUN jail on the Northeast coast of CHEJU Island and demanded the release of a prisoner. The people were armed with clubs and rocks. When the crowd began throwing rocks and attempted to rush the jail the police fired, wounding four people. The crowd dispersed.

• 인민위원회 존재(1947. 4. 13)

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Skeletal Government administrative branches exist throughout South KOREA as remnants of Peoples' Committees passed down by the old Communist dominated Korean Peoples' Republic. They are especially strong in the KYONG SAND and CHOLLA provinces and in the island province of CHEJU DO. A basic demand of the South KOREA Labor Party's propaganda line is that the government be turned over to the Peoples' Committees. There is little doubt that these organizations are well organized and staffed by the most capable adherents to the party line.

• 사건일지 / 제주도 3·1사건(1947. 5. 18)

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HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

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