

STARS AND STRIPES

20 JUNE 1948

Board Of Claims Set Up In Korea

SEOUL, June 19 (INS)—An American Board of Claims has been sent to the South Korean east coast to determine and pay reparations for losses incurred in the June 8 bombing of Korean fishing boats of Ulluang-Do.

The United States Far Eastern Air Force headquarters in Tokyo, Wednesday, assumed the responsibility for the bombing, announcing that the fishing boats were not observed by any of the B-29s engaged in target bombing.

It was announced in Seoul yesterday that the Claims Board was set up by Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge. The board has the authority to make final decisions on the spot and pay claims after investigation in each case is completed and payment found to be justified.

The Korean News Service stated that nine Korean fishermen had been killed in the bombing.

CHIEF OF POLICE KILLED IN KOREA

SEOUL, June 19 (UP)—The commander of the Korean Constabulary on Cheju Island was murdered early today and the American Military Governor of Southern Korea, Maj. Gen. William F. Dean, flew to the island to investigate personally.

U.S. Army authorities said the Korean, Col. Paw Chin Kyung, was shot to death with an American rifle as he slept in his headquarters at 3:15 a.m. The constabulary men on Cheju are armed with Garand rifles.

Accompanying Dean on his flight to Cheju were two ballistics experts.

Pak was named constabulary commander only recently. He took over after Communist rioters caused widespread damage and casualties and created such rivalry between the constabulary and police that the two Korean groups were taking occasional shots at each other.

RHEE FACES FIRST LEADERSHIP TEST

SEOUL, June 19 (AP)—The first major test of Chairman Syngman Rhee's leadership in Korea's new National Assembly may be on the issue of presidential powers.

The committee drafting a constitution for the government-to-be is said to favor concentrating executive power in a prime minister. An elected President—the first one probably elected by the Assembly—would appoint the prime minister subject to the Assembly's approval.

The committee plans to report to the Assembly June 19.

There is little doubt that Rhee, who was elected chairman May 31 by a vote of 188 to nine, will become Korea's first President. But some of the same forces that supported his election as chairman and would not challenge his right to head the new state, are working to limit the powers of the President.

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Authority JNO 745070