

From: 031200/I Sept 48
 To : 101200/I Sept 48

Headquarters, USAFIK
 Seoul, Korea
 10 September 1948

SECRET

No. 156
 MAPS: KOREA, 1/250,000
 East ASIA, 1/1,000,000

A. ARMED FORCES

1. Strength (Secret)

Police: No Change
 Constabulary: 52,492 (including 1,188 unsworn recruits and 1,069 absent, missing, or unreported).
 Coast Guard: 3,028 (including 131 cadets).

2. Operational Activity (Confidential)

Border Incidents

On 31 August a South Korean policeman was fired on by North Korean Constabularymen and Soviet soldiers. (Police Report)

Between 312315 August and 010240 September an American platoon was fired upon by an estimated 20-30 persons. One of the attackers was apparently wounded. (B-2)

At 031115 September a North Korean Coast Guard boat captured a South Korean fishing boat at (814.7-1695.4). (C-3)

At 090420 September 40 North Korean Constabularymen attacked the South Korean police station at SOKSAN (935.7-1695.3).

Between 091217 and 091235 September 9 Soviet fighter planes were observed south of the parallel near KAESONG (957-1692). (B-2)

On 09 September an American patrol was fired on by North Korean Constabularymen located at (938.5-1696.5). The patrol returned the fire and the NKC withdrew. (B-2)

	04-11 June	11-18 June	18-25 June	25 June-02 July	02-09 July	09-16 July	16-23 July	23-30 July	30 July-06 August	06-13 August	13-20 August	20-27 August	27 August-03 September	03-10 Sept	TOTAL
Border Incidents															
Korean vs Korean	4	6	4	6		2	3		3	2	3	2	4	3	42
Firing on US Personnel		1	2			1	2	1		1	1			1	10
Embushes of US Personnel							1								1
Soviet Violations of Parallel *						1								1	2
Korean Violations of Parallel *	2	1		1				1		1					6
Soviets vs Koreans	1												1		2
TOTAL	7	8	6	7		4	6	2	3	4	4	2	5	5	63

* No firing involved

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B. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

1. National Assembly

a. National Traitor Law Passed

The National Traitor Law was passed by the National Assembly at the completion of its third reading, on 07 September.

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b. Prime Minister's Report on Transfer Negotiations

In compliance with a written request from the National Assembly demonstrating its own impatience and reflecting public sentiment and pressure (see W/S 154, page 16 and W/S 155, page 15), Prime Minister LEE Bum Suk appeared before the legislative chamber to report on the progress of the negotiations being conducted by US and Korean representatives regarding the transfer of administration into the hands of the new government.

The Prime Minister stated that he shared the National Assembly's anxiety for the completion of the transfer but that full details pertaining to materials and personnel were still undetermined. He assured the Assembly that he would return to the chamber with complete information on the negotiations when all details became available.

c. JAI SOHN May Serve Korean Government in 1949

Speaker SHIN Ik Hi informed the Assembly that Philip JAI SOHN had expressed his gratitude for the interest the Assembly had shown in securing his services in the new government (W/S 155, page 5) and that he hoped to return to Korea in the spring of 1949 when possibly the political situation in Korea will have changed and certain elements might have abandoned their schemes for using him for their own interests.

d. Action on Rhee's Appointments to the UN

On 04 September the Assembly took offense at a letter from the President announcing the appointment of representatives to the United Nations General Assembly. Reportedly, objections were raised by HANKOOK DEMOCRATIC PARTY members in the National Assembly who stated that the Constitution requires that such correspondence from the executive to the legislative branch of the government requires the signature of Cabinet members. (Actually, Article 66 of the Constitution provides: "The acts of the President pertaining to State affairs shall be executed in written documents and all such documents shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister and the Minister concerned.") With 131 members present, the Assembly voted 71 to 45 to return the letter to the President for the necessary signatures.

On 08 September, during the 60th session, it was reported that the letter had not yet been returned by the President. This forced the Assembly to save face by passing the following resolution: "The National Assembly recognizes the appointments of Chang Myun and Chang Ki Yung, elected Representatives of the Korean people, as delegates of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations General Assembly Meeting in Paris."

COMMENT: The National Assembly's reaction to Rhee's letter announcing the appointments of the National Assembly Representatives is construed as an attempt by the Hankooks to embarrass Rhee on a technicality, since the Cabinet members, who are appointed and dismissed by the President, can be expected to support the great majority of the President's decisions.

2. AHN Chai Hong Joins NIF

On 04 September, at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FEDERATION, AHN Chai Hong, formerly Civil Administrator in the South Korean Interim Government, was elected to the NIF's Standing Committee. PAK Kun Ong, formerly of the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly, was also elected.

The two men filled vacancies created by the resignation of KIM Yak Soo and LEE Chung Kun, who dropped out of the committee when they ran as candidates in the 10 May election (KIM Yak Soo was elected).

Their resignations were volunteered because they had forsaken the basic tenet of the NIF by supporting a "separate" government.

COMMENT: Both LHN and P.K are regarded as moderates of relative prominence. It is expected that the presence of these two individuals in the moderate ranks will strengthen the middle-raders, who are being deserted by their Communist colleagues. LHN's acceptance of the NIF position is an indication that he probably will not form a new party independent of the FEDERATION.

3. Civil Unrest

a. Communist Activities

According to reports received from various sources, approximately 120 persons were arrested in South KOREA in July and August for collecting ballots and signatures for the North KOREA elections. These persons were either apprehended while obtaining signatures or while on their way to North KOREA. Approximately one million hand marks and signatures on ballots are reported to have been confiscated by South Korean authorities. Substantiating reports of forgeries (W/S #152), a confiscated South Korea Labor Party directive disclosed that the party announced approval of signing ballots on behalf of voters in areas where extreme police suppression prevailed.

b. Communist Violence

- (1) Weekly Violence Summary - Negative
- (2) Delayed Reports Covering Last Week - Negative
- (3) 1948 Communist Activities in South Korea

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT*	TOTAL
Attacks on towns				5	73	9	1			88
Attacks on police		130	118	50	86	12	11	11	2	420
Police killed		33	20	15	34	4	1	5		112
Rightists killed	1	14	14	81	144	51	10	1	1	317
Communists killed	1	74	75	70	155	83	33	22	1	514
Disorders, demonstrations, arson, attacks on rightists' offices and homes	6	118	69	126	196	81	24	12		632
Attacks on government buildings		9	14	2	9	3				37
Sabotage (Communications)	14	53	58	32	57	8	1			223
Sabotage (RR lines)	1	12	6		8		1			28
Sabotage (locomotives)		50			24					74
Sabotage (roads)		13	5	2	5			1		26
Sabotage (bridges)		6	9	5	4					24
Sabotage (power)					7	1				8
Strikes (labor)		14	6	3	16	1				40
Strikes (school)		7	5	4	9					25

*Incomplete

c. Other Violence

(1) Rightist Terrorism

A delayed report disclosed that on 30 August members of the CHANGGI (1245-1445) branch of the UNITED YOUNG MEN'S PARTY seized and severely beat the CHANGGI chairman of the NORTHWEST YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION. The following day, the UYMP attacked the headquarters of the NWYMA and destroyed equipment, supplies and records of that organization.

(2) A summary of acts of violence on the part of persons of unknown political affiliation as reported up to 10 September 1948, is as follows:

	Seoul	Kyonggi Do	Kangwon Do	Chungchong Namdo	Chungchong Pukto	Cholla Namdo	Cholla Pukto	Kyongsang Namdo	Kyongsang Pukto	Chcheu Do	TOTAL
Assassination											
Anti-grain collection											
Political terrorism											
Demonstration											
Resistance to arrest											
Arson											
Unclassified											
Attacks on police											
Attacks on individuals											
Sabotage (communications)		2									2
Sabotage (railroad lines)											
Sabotage (power)											
Sabotage (bridges)											
Strikes (labor)											
Strikes (school)											

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(3) Delayed Reports covering Last Week

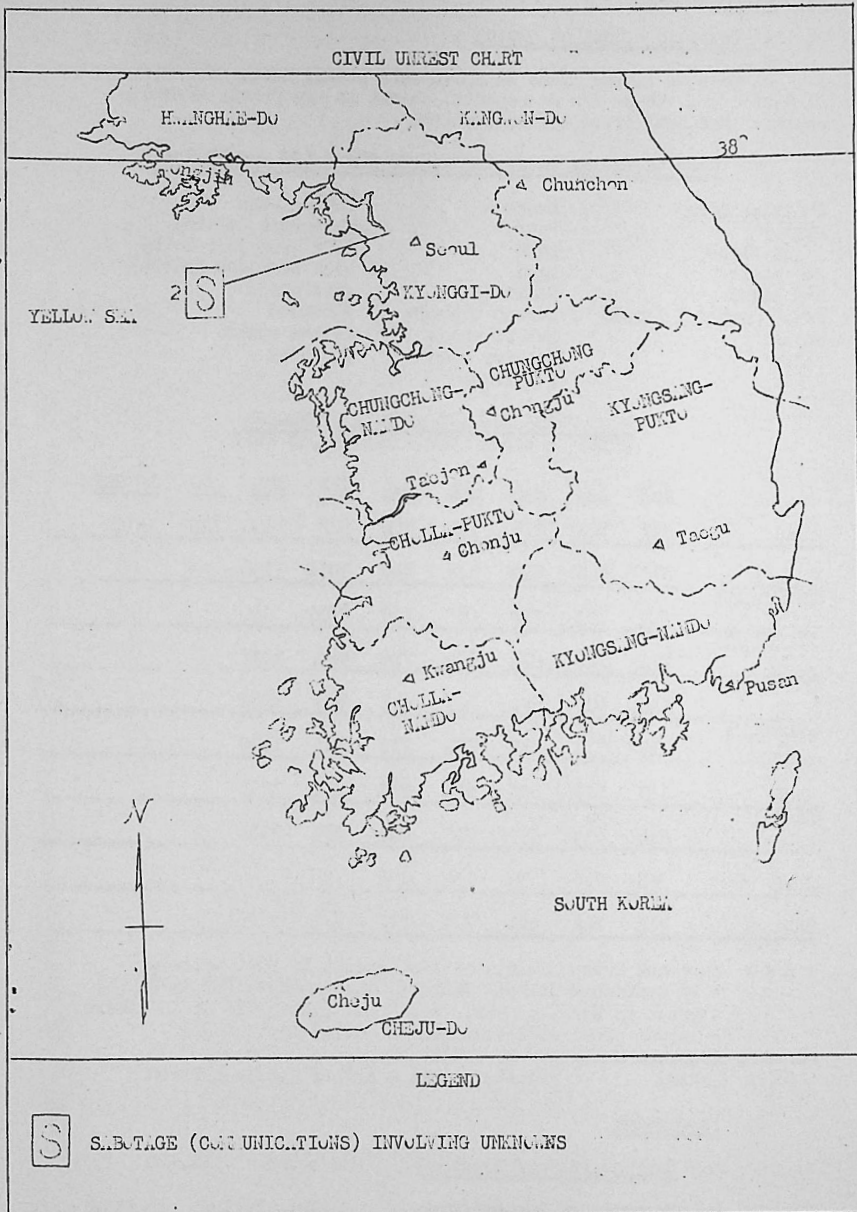
Delayed reports of incidents involving other than communists which occurred during the week ending 03 September but which were not carried in last week's summary are:

	Seoul	Kyonggi Do	Kangwon Do	Chungchong Nampo	Chungchong Pukto	Cholla Nampo	Kyongsang Nampo	Kyongsang Pukto	Cheju Do	TOTAL
Assassination										
Anti-grain collection										
Political terrorism										
Demonstration										
Resistance to arrest										
Arson										
Unclassified										
Attacks on police										
Attacks on individuals				1						1
Sabotage (communications)		1								1
Sabotage (railroad lines)										
Sabotage (power)										
Sabotage (bridges)										
Strikes (labor)										
Strikes (school)										

(4) Monthly summary of acts of violence on the part of persons of unknown political affiliation:

	JULY	AUG	SEPT*	TOTAL
Assassination	7			7
Anti-grain collection	9	1		10
Political terrorism	1	1		2
Demonstration	15	9		24
Resistance to arrest	5	9		14
Arson	2	3		5
Unclassified	11	11		22
Attacks on Police		1		1
Attacks on individuals		4	1	5
Sabotage (communications)	1	4	3	8
Sabotage (railroad lines)				
Sabotage (power)				
Sabotage (bridges)				
Strikes (labor)				
Strikes (school)	1			1

*Incomplete



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C. WAR POTENTIAL1. Economic - Cost of Living

Cost of living items in SEOUL were steady during the week ending 04 September. There was no reported change in any prices checked. Source: National Price Administration.

Cost of Living Items Checked in SEOUL (27 Aug-03 Sept)

Polished rice	Matches	Flannelette
Barley	Beef	Kwang-mak (cloth)
Wheat flour	Pork	Silk myungju (cloth)
Soy beans	Eggs	Silk sook soo (cloth)
Red beans	Radishes	Anthracite
Dried myungtai (fish)	Korean cabbage	Firewood
Sugar	Rubber shoes	Cotton socks
Salt	Laundry soap	Charcoal
	Soy sauce	

RICE PRICE SUMMARY MONTHLY AVERAGES*

Unit: 1 small metric Mal (18.48 lbs)

	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>10 SEP</u>
SEOUL	817	821	778	721	814	985	1158	1262	1410
KANGWON DO	870	946	849	825	898	1012	1136	**	
CHUNGCHONG PUKTO	645	723	719	660	795	1037	990		
CHUNGCHONG NAMDO	793	728	674	634	726	946	1037		
KYONGSANG PUKTO	594	605	552	605	641	888	1081		
KYONGSANG NAMDO	715	778	715	704	733	955	1070		
CHOLLA PUKTO	669	669	605	623	773	935	1036		
CHOLLA NAMDO	614	633	559	595	801	963	1109		
CHEJU DO	806	748	679	814	806	1081	1179		
AVERAGE	713	744	681	725	777	978	1166		

Source: National Price Administration (except 10 Sept price).

* 10 September price: Source: Open markets (5) in SEOUL; price is for the metric small mal (18.48 lbs or 10 liters)

** August provincial averages not available.

Currency Exchange Rate: U. S. dollar equals 1100 won

(OPEN MARKET) Military script dollar equals 450 won

2. Populationa. Surrendered and Disarmed No change: 179,920b. Progress of Repatriation This Period To Date

Japanese Civilians Arriving
from N of 38°N KOREA, CHINA
and MANCHURIA

0 288,532

	<u>This Period</u>	<u>To Date</u>
<u>Japanese Evacuated to JAPAN</u>	0	884,933
<u>Total Koreans Returning</u>	3,337	2,165,210
<u>Total Repatriates Moved Since 15 August 1945</u>	3,337	3,050,143
<u>Koreans Apprehended While Attempting Illegal Entry into JAPAN</u>	0	25,243

Source: G-3, XXIV Corps

D. PSYCHOLOGICAL

Scattered comment referring to the alleged delay in the transfer of government and the provisions of the National Traitor Law (which was passed by the National Assembly during the period) appeared in the editorial pages of Seoul newspapers. Writers appeared to have exhausted their store of invective on the subjects, however, and added nothing to what had already been printed.

E. SABOTAGE AND ESPIONAGE

On 02 September 25 feet of wire was removed from the line between the SONG DO Rest Hotel near INCHON and INCHON (960-1630).

Between 060300 and 060400 September 2 spans of wire were cut out of the telephone line east of YONGDUNGPO (960-1630). The wire was later recovered. (A-1)

On 082230 September, a patrol discovered that the line from the 1st Replacement Depot (989-1631) to Korea Base Command had been severed. (A-1)

COMMENT: It is believed that the intent behind the removal of telephone line is theft rather than sabotage.

A 14 year old espionage agent, dispatched from YANGGU (1095,0-1709.8) on 06 September, was apprehended by the SONGCHUNG (1089.9-1694.1) police. The agent stated he had been sent to South KOREA to observe CP #23 and to obtain troop and transportation information from Communists in CHUNCHON (1170-1680). (Police Report)