

SECRET

PART I

SOUTH KOREA

From: 291200/I Oct 48
To : 051200/I Nov 48

Headquarters, USAFIK
Seoul, Korea
5 November 1948

No. 164

MAPS: KOREA 1/250,000
East ASIA, 1/1,000,000

A. ARMED FORCES

1. Strength (Secret)

Police: No change

Constabulary: 46,280 (including 616 cadets and 18 recruits)

Coast Guard: 2,906 (including 257 cadets)

NOTE: The above figures do not include casualties and desertions during the recent revolts in CHOLLA-NAMDO and TAEGU.

2. Operational Activity (Confidential)

a. Border Incidents - Negative

b. Constabulary Operations (Restricted) - See B, 3, below

	04-11 Jun	11-18 Jun	18-25 Jun	25 June	02 July	02-09 Jul	09-16 Jul	16-23 Jul	23-30 Jul	30 July	06 August	06-15 Aug	15-20 Aug	20-27 Aug	27 August	03 September	03-10 Sep	10-17 Sep	17-24 Sep	24 September	01 October	01-08 Oct	08-15 Oct	15-22 Oct	22-29 Oct	29 October	05 November	TOTAL
Border Incidents																												
Korean vs Korean	4	6	4	6		2	3		3	2	3	2	4	3	1	2						2	1					48
Firing on US Personnel		1	2			1	2	1		1	1					1	1	2		6	1	2						22
Ambushes of US Personnel							1																					1
Soviet Violations of Parallel*							1									1												2
Korean Violations of Parallel*	2	1		1			1		1		1								1	1	2						10	
Soviets vs Koreans	1									1	1																	3
TOTAL	7	8	6	7		4	6	2	3	4	4	3	5	5		7	5		7	5	3						86	

* No firing involved.

B. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

1. National Assembly (Unclassified)

On 04 November the National Assembly passed the "Temporary Law on Local Government Administration" (W/S #162, page 4) over the Presidential veto by a vote of 103 to 16, with 17 abstentions.

The vacancy created by RHEE's appointment to the Presidency was filled by an election in Seoul's Tong dai mun "A" district 30 October. The successful candidate, HONG Song Ha, polled 5,402 of 25,375 ballots cast.

HONG, 51, is a member of the HANKOOK DEMOCRATIC PARTY. He was an elected member of the Interim Legislative Assembly but was defeated in his home province, CHOLLA NAMDO, on 10 May.
New Vice-Minister of Communications (Unclassified)

PAK Yong Ha, replaced PAK Hong Kyun as Vice Minister of Communications on 01 November. No reason was given for the latter's resignation, which was submitted on the same date.

PAK Yong Ha was educated in Japan, served as Dean of the Commercial College of Seoul National University, and is not known to be member of any political party.

3. Civil Unrest

a. Constabulary Mutiny in CHOLLA-NAMDO(Restricted)

Since the reoccupation of YOSU (1070-1300) on 27 October, further activities of Constabulary forces operating against the mutineers have consisted of mopping up mutineer groups in the NAMWAN (1030-1380), KURYE (1048-1358) PAEGUN-SAN (1060-1340) and CHIRI-SAN (1070-1370) area. On 28 October Constabulary units in the vicinity of MONSU-RI (1053-1362) captured 30 mutineers and confiscated 5 LMG's, 30 cases of .30 cal. ammunition and 1 radio. (C-3) On 02 November 23 mutineers of the 14th Regiment were killed and 20 were captured in the vicinity of KURYE. Ten civilians who had joined the mutineers were also captured. (B-2) Indications that mutineers were still operating was received in a report which stated that on 31 October 50 rioters raided a village approximately 5 miles east of NAMWON. (B-3)

An estimated 200 mutineers reportedly escaped south of YOSU to TOLSAN-DO (1078-1289). Coast Guard units were dispatched to this island to clean up any pockets of resistance. (B-2)

The following is a recapitulation, as of 30 October, from Korean Sources, of casualties in the 14th Regiment mutiny.

	CONSTABULARY		MUTINEERS
	O	EM	
Killed	2	27	310
Wounded	3	155	
Captured			2327*
Missing	3	50	

* See next page

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d. Constabulary Mutiny in TAEGU (1150-1430)
(Restricted)

At approximately 021200 November a mutiny broke out in the 6th Constabulary Regiment when a Constabulary MP Officer was killed by a Constabulary Non-Commissioned Officer who was being arrested for Communist activities.

Taking advantage of this incident members of the 6th Regiment, stationed at a rifle range southwest of Camp Skipworth on the outskirts of TAEGU (1150-1430), mutinied. (A-2) Approximately 30 Constabulary MP's were dispatched to the area and engaged the mutineers. The firefight lasted until 021430 November, at which time an estimated 75 of the mutineers, loaded in 4 Jeeps, 3 2 1/2 ton trucks and 1 3/4 ton truck, departed from the camp. (B-2)

During the afternoon of 02 November 92 of the mutineers, all armed, surrendered to the Commanding Officer of the U.S. 1st Regiment. This group also surrendered 5 trucks and 1 ambulance which they had in their possession. By evening 02 November the 1st Infantry Regiment had 4 officers, 303 enlisted men and 12 civilians under guard in TAEGU. (A-2)

At 020735 November a reported 40 or 50 of the mutineers boarded a train, consisting of an engine and 1 coach, in TAEGU and started northwest toward TAEJON (1000-1450). (The Constabulary men paid their fares.) When they arrived at SINDONG (1147-1450) at 1800 hours, however, a reported 30 or 40 men jumped off the train and ran into the hills. Meanwhile police had made plans to cut the railroad line southeast of TAEJON. (B-2)

During the night of 02-03 November 70 armed Constabulary mutineers, loaded in 4 trucks, attacked and captured a police box at CHILGOK (1154-1448). Later in the night police from TAEGU recaptured the police box and the mutineers escaped in the direction of WAEGWAM (1139-1454) and KUMCHON (1110-1460). (F-3)

Seventy mutineers were surrounded and captured by the police and constabularymen in the KUMCHON area at 030830 November. (B-2)

On the morning of 03 November the police were reportedly fighting an estimated 20 mutineers who were holding out in a factory in TAEGU. By morning of 04 November these mutineers had escaped from the factory in small groups. (B-2)

All was quiet in the Taegu area on 04 November, and the Constabulary reinforcements had returned to PUSAN (1200-1340). (B-2)

The total casualties reported are 4 police killed, 15 police wounded, 21 mutineers killed and 8 mutineers wounded. (C-3) A total of 389 prisoners had been captured by 040830 November. Of this total all were Constabulary enlisted men except 4 Constabulary officers and 12 civilians. (A-2) By 041500 November an additional 23 Constabularymen who had been involved in the mutiny had been captured. (Police Report)

According to interrogated prisoners, they had intended to attack police boxes on 03 November but the riot had been precipitated prematurely. (A-3)

The following material was recovered from the prisoners:

5 Trucks	2 Heavy Machine Guns
1 Ambulance	1 50 Cal. Machine Gun
10 Drums of Gasoline	1 Jap Rifle
1 60 MM Mortar	4,540 Rounds 50 Cal. Ammunition
1 Sub Machine Gun	3,050 Rounds 30 Cal. Ammunition (loose)
6 M1 Carbines	76,000 Rounds 30 Cal. Ammunition (belted)
40 M1 Rifles	56 Rounds 60 MM Mortar Ammunition
1 Light Machine Gun	21 Rounds 81 MM Mortar Ammunition

(A-2)

COMMENT: Although there have been no specific reports of Communist influence in this riot, it is logical to assume that it existed. Communist elements in the 6th Regiment undoubtedly took advantage of an incident and hoped it would spread into a large scale revolt. The lack of success in this mutiny, as compared with the uprising in CHULLA-NAMDO which began in YOSU, was probably the result of less careful planning by the mutineers, the action taken by the U.S. regimental commander, and prompt action by loyal Constabulary and police. (W/S #163, Page 7)

e. Minor Constabulary Mutinies in CHULLA-NAMDO

On 29 October about 20 men of the 4th Constabulary Regiment in POSONG (1016-1302) reportedly mutinied and wounded the Regimental Commander. Loyal units of the 4th Regiment subdued the mutineers. (F-6)

On 02 November, near NAJU (972-1336), a Battalion Commander of the 4th Constabulary Regiment was shot by his "E" Company Commander. The incident occurred when the Company Commander, acting on orders of the Regimental Commander, attempted to arrest the Battalion Commander. The Company Commander, accompanied by 50 Constabulary, fled into the mountains near NAJU. Two companies were sent into the area to round up the mutineers. (B-2)

COMMENT: It is possible that disaffected elements within the Constabulary have been encouraged by the initial success of the incident which began at YOSU on 19 October. Whatever the reason, disaffected elements came out in the open and identified themselves; this is considered a healthy situation which can be easily controlled as long as these disaffected elements continue to appear in small groups.



RECENT REVOLT AREAS IN SOUTH KOREA

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f. Communist Activity (Restricted)

- (1) Confirmation of the fact that the SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY was preparing gifts to be sent to the Russians was received during the period. In a KWANGJU (990-1350) textile factory, police confiscated silk handkerchiefs embroidered with leftist propaganda and good wishes to the Russians. (B-2)

The SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY and its affiliates have continued to maintain their intensified propaganda campaign throughout South Korea with handbills and posters containing the usual "party line."

- (2) The following reports concerning dates for communist riots and disturbances have been received during the period of this report; these are in addition to those reported previously (W/S #157, #158, #160, #162 & #163):

(a) "In the very near future, approximately 50 leftist employees of the CHONGPYONG (1040-1660) electric power plant, in conjunction with leftist elements of the UNITED YOUNG MEN'S PARTY and the KOREAN NATIONAL GUARD CORPS, plan to sabotage the power plant and the transportation system utilized to carry timbers from CHONGPYONG." (C-2)

(b) "The SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY has made plans for a revolt at a station in the Northeast part of South Korea on 10 December 1948. This revolt is to include sailors and constabularymen who are to be contacted by agents from North Korea." (C-6)

(c) "Officials and businessmen of the INCHON City Committee believe that the SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY will instigate uprisings throughout South Korea on 19 November 1948." (C-5)

(d) "Disturbances planned by leftists in the KANGNUNG (1180-1660) area have been postponed until 15 November 1948, in order to permit the farmer-raiders to complete the harvesting of their rice crops." (C-3)

(e) "Arrested members of the SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY and the DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES FRONT revealed that plans had been made to attack and destroy the main YONG-DONG PO (990-1635) police station and the offices of the rightist GREAT KOREAN LABOR ALLIANCE." (C-3)

(f) "Each cell in the city of SEOUL is preparing for a disturbance which is connected with the YOSU (1170-1300) rebellion. The disturbance will be on 05 November 1948, starting in INCHON (960-1630) and moving toward SEOUL." (C-3)

(3) Guerrilla Activities on CHEJU DO (Restricted)

During the period, intensified constabulary operations against the guerrillas resulted in many casualties to them, including approximately 146 guerrillas killed. (C-3) In one fire fight against the raiders, the second in command of the CHEJU DO "Peoples Army," one LEE, Duk Soo, was killed. (A-1) Quantities of ammunition, weapons and clothing have also been confiscated from the guerrillas. No constabulary casualties have been reported. Several delayed reports disclosed that the guerrillas made 4 attacks on the police and 2 attacks on rightists. These acts resulted in the death of 4 police, 4 rightists and 2 guerrillas.

(4) Communist Violence (Restricted)

(NOTE: The following charts do not include any figures on the YOSU or TAEGU outbreaks)

(a) Weekly Violence Summary as reported up to 05 November:

	SEOUL	GYONGGI-DO	KANGWON-DO	CHUNGCHONG	NAARO	CHUNGCHONG	PUKTO	CHOLLA	NAARO	CHOLLA	PUKTO	GYONGSANG	NAARO	GYONGSANG	PUKTO	CHEJU DO	HWANGHE DO	TOTAL
Attacks on towns																		
Attacks on police																		
Attacks on constabulary																		
Police killed																		
Rightists killed																		
Constabulary killed																		
Communist killed																146		146
Demon, disorders, arson & attacks on rightists																		
Attacks on Govt. Bldgs																		
Sabotage: RR lines																		
Communications																		
Roads																		
Power																		
Strikes: Labor																		
Schools																		

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(b) Delayed Reports which were not Covered in Last Week's Summary (W/S #163, page 8) (Restricted)

	SEOUL	YONGGI-DO	KANGWON-DO	CHUNGCHONG	YANGDO	CHUNGCHONG	PUKTO	GHOLLA	GHOLLA	PUKTO	YONGSANG	YANGDO	YONGSANG	PUKTO	CHERU DO	YANGGI-DO	TOTAL
Attacks on towns															4		4
Attacks on police															4		4
Killed: Police															4		4
Rightists															4		4
Constabulary																	
Communists										1				2			3
Demon, disorders, arson & attacks on rightists														2			2
Attacks on Govt Bldgs																	
Sabotage: RR lines																	
Communications																	
Roads																	
Bridges																	
Power																	
Strikes: Labor																	
Schools																	

(c) 1948 Communist Activities in South Korea (Restricted)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV*	TOTAL
Attacks on towns				5	73	9	1			4		92
Attacks on police		130	118	50	86	12	11	11	4	9		431
Attacks on constabulary										3		3
Killed: Police		33	20	15	54	4	1	5	1	15		136
Rightists	1	14	14	81	144	51	10	1	7	12		335
Constabulary										1		1
Communists	1	74	75	70	155	83	33	22	1	151	7	681
Demon, disorders, arson & attacks on rightists	6	118	69	126	196	81	24	12	7	11		650
Attacks on Govt Bldg		1	14	2	9	3						37
Sabotage:												
Communication	14	53	58	32	57	8	1			2		225
Railroad lines	1	12	5		8		1			1		29
Locomotives		50	24									74
Roads		13	5	2	5			1		1		27
Bridges		6	9	5	4							34
Power					7	1						8
Strikes: Labor		14	6	3	16	1						40
School		7	5	4	9							25

*Incomplete

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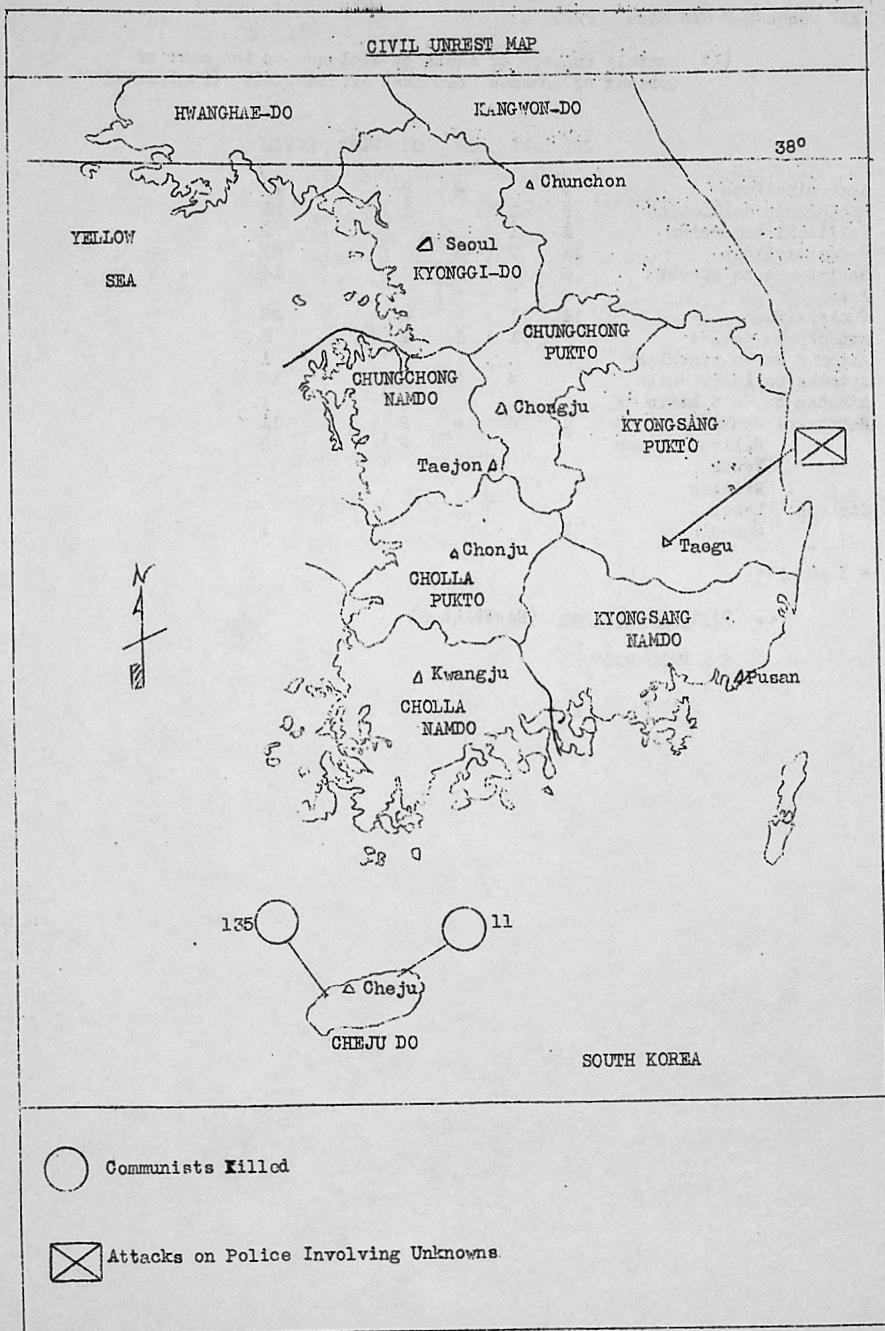
(4) Monthly summary of facts of violence on the part of persons of unknown political affiliations (Restricted)

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV*	TOTAL
Assassinations	7		4	8		19
Anti-grain collection	9	1		1		11
Political terrorism	1	1				2
Demonstrations	15	9	3			27
Resistance to arrest	5	9				14
Arson	2	3				5
Unclassified	11	11		6		28
Attacks on police		1	2	2		5
Attacks on Constabulary				1		1
Attacks on individuals		4	3	6		13
Attacks on Govt Bldgs				1		1
Sabotage: Communications	1	4	4	2		11
Railroad lines				2		2
Power						
Bridges						
Strikes: Labor						
Schools	1					1

* Incomplete

o. Civil Unrest Map (Restricted)

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C. WAR POTENTIAL1. Cost-of-Living (Unclassified)RICE PRICE SUMMARY MONTHLY AVERAGE
(Unit: 1 small metric mal (18.48 lbs))

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP*	OCT**
Seoul	817	821	778	721	814	985	1158	1200	1364	810
Kangwon Do	870	946	849	825	898	1012	1136	1133	770	
Chungchong Namdo	793	778	674	634	726	946	1037	1083	1100	
Chungchong Pukto	645	723	719	660	795	1037	990	1033	798	
Kyongsang Namdo	715	778	715	704	733	955	1070	950	1100	
Kyongsang Pukto	594	605	552	605	641	888	1081	1050	1062	
Gholla Namdo	614	533	559	595	801	963	1109	1008	1040	
Gholla Pukto	669	669	605	623	773	935	1036	1200	1045	
Cheju Do	806	748	679	814	806	1081	1879	1033		
AVERAGE	713	744	681	725	777	978	1166	1087	1034	

SOURCE: National Price Administration (except Sept & Oct prices).

* Incomplete

** 29 October price: SOURCE: Open markets (5) in SEOUL; price is for the metric mal (18.48 lbs. or 10 liters).

Currency Exchange Rate: U.S. dollar equals 1, 100 won
(Open Market) Military Payment Script equals 520 won.2. Population: (Restricted)a. Surrendered and disarmed: No change 173,920b. Progress of Repatriation This Period To DateJapanese civilians arriving
from north of 38° N. Korea,
China and Manchuria

0 288,535

Japanese evacuated to Japan

0 884,972

Total Koreans returning 1,540 2,180,552

Total repatriates moved since
15 August 1945 3,067,909Koreans apprehended while
attempting illegal entry
into Japan

0 25,594

D. PSYCHOLOGICAL1. Constabulary Revolt (Unclassified)

a. The Press: Numerous newspapers in SEUL continued their discussion of the causes for the uprising of the Korean Constabulary on 19 October. The reasons for the revolt were dwelt upon particularly by MIN JU ILBO (Democratic News) and CHOSUN ILBO (Korean Daily News), both moderate. MIN JU stated that the "barbaric activities" of the insurrectionists "teach us how terrible the murder of our own people can be." The writer said that when the first news of the outbreak in the 14th Regiment had been received it was hoped that the incident was a mere "demonstration," but later, unfortunately, the development took on the appearance of a "civil war." The writer warned that if disturbances continue, foreign forces will not be withdrawn from Korea and that the recent revolt may furnish an excuse for continued occupation. MIN JU declared that it advocates the withdrawal of foreign forces because, it asserts, "we have the capability to govern ourselves." The editor opined that the insurrection weakened the basis for his paper's support of withdrawal.

CHOSUN ILBO termed the outbreak in the south as "very regrettable" and urged the people and the government to cooperate in developing a policy which would preclude further rupture of the peace which might prove to cause the downfall of the nation. This newspaper described the revolt as "one of the worst international developments in the history of the Korean nation" and placed some degree of blame for the incident on the "comparatively young and immature students who demonstrated their youthful strength without any consideration for right or wrong." In part, the paper stated, the fault for this lies with many educators who have neglected their responsibilities to engage in profiteering.

b. Radio PYONGYANG: The communist-operated radio in PYONGYANG broadcast the collapse of the constabulary rebellion with extreme reluctance, but in so doing a full effort was made to place the entire responsibility for the bloodshed in the south on the United States. The communists announced that American personnel "directly participated in crushing the citizens who were attempting to 'save their countrymen from slaughter and destruction at the hands of the enemies of the people.'" It was reported by PYONGYANG that YOSU was "indiscriminately shelled" by tanks and ships "directed by the Americans," and that landings at YOSU were facilitated by American personnel. Writers of the PYONGYANG reports distorted various news dispatches which dealt with American advice to the armed forces of the Republic of Korea on supply and tactical problems. Such reports were augmented with commentary on agreements between RHEE's "puppet government" and the United States, the transfer of American airplanes to the "so-called government," and the visit of RHEE Syng Man with General MCARTHUR in which the latter "pledged the defense of the South Korean government." In a kind of a maneuver which is no longer astonishing, the communists attempted to vilify the Americans for actively protecting "the enemies of the people, the pro-Japanese and national traitors, from liquidation by the people's courts" (see W/S #163, page 17 and paragraph B, 3c above).

On 01 November when the southern revolt was reduced to a search for renegades, PYONGYANG announced that "the people...are launching guerrilla warfare everywhere fiercer than before." The insurgents were reported to be in the midst of a "fierce counteroffensive against...the city of YOSU, and were conducting an aggressive mop-up operation against the pro-Japanese, national traitors, vicious policemen and other enemies of the people...."

COMMENT: YOSU was permanently retaken by loyal forces on 27 October, four days before this PYONGYANG broadcast. Throughout the revolt PYONGYANG showed ability to keep up-to-the-minute in reporting the "victories" of the rebels.

Uprisings in CHEJU DO and TAEGU were reported with a similar glorification of the activities of "the people" who "arose from oppression."

The inspiration for the "great revolution" against imperialism and for democracy came with the exploits of LENIN and STALIN, said PYONGYANG. In 1917, as now, the communists implied, the proletarians face the bourgeois in the fight for "world democracy."

2. Freedom of the Press

KOOK MIN SHIN MUN Closed

a. Director of Public Information KIM Dong Sung revoked the license of the Seoul newspaper KOOK MIN SHIN MUN (National News) on 29 October. The action against the newspaper was based on Section IV, Paragraph "c" of USANGIK Ordinance Number 88, dated 29 May 1946, which states that the license of "any newspaper or other periodical may be revoked or suspended by the licensing authority" for "violation of the law," among other reasons.

The law the newspaper was charged with violating was established in 1906. The provision of this law violated by the newspaper forbids the publication of any statement "detrimental to international friendship." Three weeks ago Director KIM indicated that legal steps would be taken against the newspaper by the government for publishing a "false story" concerning an alleged American-inspired major reorganization of the present cabinet (W/S #161, page 13).

b. Several SEOUL newspapers expressed their opposition to the action of the government in closing the KOOK MI SHIN MUN and curtailing the operations of the Korea Press. The actions were described as premature in that the guilt of the persons charged with responsibility for the publication of news detrimental to the new government has not yet been established (W/S 162, page 5). Right-wing

Right-wing DAI DOG SHIN MUN (Great Eastern News) termed the government's action as "harsh" and "unfortunate." The paper recalled that the governments of Germany, Japan and Italy had met their downfall partly as a result of suppression such as this.

E. SABOTAGE AND ESPIONAGE

Negative