

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

Confidential

From: 190800/I Dec 48
To : 200800/I Dec 48

Headquarters, USAFIK
Seoul, Korea
1000/I 20 December 1948

PART I

SOUTH KOREA

No. 1017

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

Historical

1. ARMED FORCES

Constabulary Movement to CHEJU-DO

The relief of the 9th Regiment on CHEJU-DO by the 2nd Regiment from TAEJON (1040-1490) (page 1, P/R #1015) is progressing according to schedule. The relief is being accomplished 1 battalion at a time. The advance party of the 2nd Regiment closed CHEJU-DO at 172000 December, and the advance party of the 9th Regiment closed TAEJON at 192350 December. (PMAG Report)

2. CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

a. Implementation of National Security Creates Dissention

Friction has developed between the Bureau of Public Peace, a department within the police department organized to carry out the provisions of the National Security Law, and the Procurator's Office, as a result of a difference of opinion as to whom shall be punishable under the National Security Law. The Bureau of Public Police is insisting on the arrest of: 1) all members of the SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY, 2) all advocates of a unified North and South KOREA and 3) all advocates of left and right wing collaboration. The reasoning by which the Bureau of Public Peace arrives at its conclusions is: 1) the SKLP is responsible for the majority of disturbances in South KOREA, 2) since the government of South KOREA is the only recognized government, any persons desiring unification with the North Korean puppet government can only be considered to be resisting the Korean government and 3) anyone who advocates collaboration between the left and right wing factions is only acting as a tool of the Communists.

On the other hand, the Procurator's Office contends that since KOREA is a democratic country, there should be freedom of thought, and no person should be arrested unless he is actually engaged in activities inimical to the government. In addition, the Procurator's Office contends, many patriots desire the unification of KOREA, and, since this unification can be most easily accomplished by cooperation between political factions, advocacy of left and right wing collaboration does not necessarily violate the National Security Law.

It is reported that in the future actual participation in an act against the government will be the criterion used by the Procurator's Office in determining a person's guilt.

Political and social organizations in general favor the attitude of the Procurator's Office and are condemning the attitude of the Bureau of Public Peace. (B-3)

Confidential

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745070

Confidential

COMMENT: The National Security Law (page 1, P/R #1004) is sufficiently strong to provide for the prosecution of Communist and any other dissident groups in South KOREA. The attitude of the police, that of desiring that indiscriminate action be taken against any possible Communist, is not surprising in view of continuous violent action by Communist elements against the police. A report has been received previously that dissention had developed between the police and the Procurator's Office in KYONGSANG-PUKTO, not in connection with the National Security Law but because of the release of Communists upon the payment of an inadequate fine.

Without an official interpretation of this law, either the prosecution will be ineffectual or the Bureau of Public Peace will take uncontrolled summary action.

b. Civil Unrest

(1) Raider Attacks on Police

Attacks by raiders on SUNCHON Gun police boxes in OESO Myun (1020-1320) and NAGAN Myun (1030-1320) on 16 December were the first of a series of attacks on police, mainly in CHOLLA-NAMDO and the CHIRI SAN (1070-1370) area. In the first two attacks 3 police and 13 civilians were killed, and 7 police are reported as missing, as opposed to the deaths of 2 terrorists. (Constabulary Report)

The governor and police chief of CHOLLA-NAMDO with their police guard were enroute to SUNCHON (1038-1326) to attend a memorial service when a force of 30 raiders ambushed the party at KWANGCHON NI (1020-1340). Neither of the officials was injured, but 8 police were killed, and 15 were wounded. Two rioters were killed, and 1 was taken prisoner. (Police Report)

On 18 December police boxes were attacked at KALPYONG NI (1110-1550) and OCH RI (1070-1340). In the attack at KALPYONG-NI by 10 raiders 1 policeman was killed, 1 wounded, and, 1 guerrilla killed. At OCH-RI the situation is more obscure. According to initial reports the attacking force, numbering 150 and composed of Constabulary mutineers and civilians, had surrounded 35 policemen whose situation was dangerous. Police reinforcements had been dispatched to the scene. (Police Report)

The attacks continued on 19 December when 30 raiders from near CHIRI-SAN (1070-1370), wearing regulation Korean Constabulary hats, attacked the MACHON (1070-1380) police box with a machine gun, killing 5 police and 4 civilians, wounding 1 policeman and capturing another. (Police Report)

COMMENT: These attacks are reminiscent of the provincial campaigns conducted by the communists in February and March.

(2) Constabulary Operations in KYONGSANG-NAMDO

At 192230 December an attack was to be made by elements of the 3rd and 12th Regiments against the concentration of raiders previously reported in the CHIRI SAN area (P/R #1015). This group reported to number 250, armed with M-1 rifles, was also reported digging in on 181800 December. (Constabulary Report)

Confidential

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745070

Confidential(3) SKLP Plans Increased Unrest

That SKLP forces will continue militant activities signaling their disapproval of the UN supported Korean government can be gathered from recent activities and plans of the organization.

On 16 December headquarters of the party in SEOUL dispatched the following instructions to TAEGU (1160-1440) headquarters:

- (a) Supply weapons to raiders in KYONGSANG-PUKTO and aid them in making contact with rebels presently operating in the PALKONG Mt (1170-1460) area.
- (b) Surround Division "E" police station in TAEGU and attempt to explode gasoline drums stored in the grounds.
- (c) Strengthen the SOUTH KOREAN WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC UNION and the KOREAN DEMOCRATIC PATRIOTIC YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION. (F-3)

In the meantime police in the PUSAN area accumulated evidence on assassin groups of the SKLP in their region. One terrorist who killed a local leader of the UNITED YOUNG MEN'S PARTY on 10 December near CHINHAE (1160-1360) admitted that he had been given instructions to kill other right wing leaders. (Police Report)

In PUSAN, the capture of the leader of a so-called Suicide Squad led to a hiding place in a neighboring forest where 2 rifles, 25 hand-made pistols, 7 hand grenades and a quantity of ammunition was recovered. (Police Report)

COMM NT: The presence of the hand-made pistols in the arms cache lends further credence to the report (P/R #1013) that communists are encouraging small scale arms production.

(4) Police Activities in CHOLLA-NAMDO

The NAJU (970-1330) police attacked a rebel hideout in TASI Myun (960-1330) on 7 December, resulting in the killing of 3 and wounding of 2 communists. Numerous documents pertaining to financial transactions of the NAJU Gun SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY were found and confiscated. (Police Report)

(5) Communist Activity in South Korean Schools

The following additional reports have been received concerning communist infiltration into the South Korean school system: (see page 2, P/R #1012)

- (a) The TONGNAE (1200-1360) police arrested PAK Kyong Chul, female student of the TONGNAE Girls Middle School, on 10 December. PAK was arrested for being the leader of the KOREAN DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS LEAGUE at this school. The following SOUTH KOREA LABOR PARTY directives were confiscated at her home:
 - (1) Increase the drives for membership in the future.
 - (2) Increase subversive drives during the period 22-31 December.
 - (3) Distribute written threats in the homes of rightist teachers and students.
 - (4) Report on all rightist elements. (Police Report)

Confidential

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745070

Confidential

- (b) On 14 December 12 members of the 6th grade, TAEJON (1040-1490) Middle School, held a secret meeting for the purpose of appointing an assassination group whose duty would be to liquidate members of the rightist ALL KOREA STUDENTS LEAGUE. (C-3)

(6) Rightist Student Corps Organized

Students from 5 of the major colleges in SEOUL initiated a movement to organize a GREAT KOREA REPUBLIC STUDENT'S VOLUNTEER CORPS in an attempt to combat leftist movements and to assist the South KOREA government. The members are organized into a company in each school in SEOUL with the headquarters in the building formerly occupied by the SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. The Department of Education and the National Police have sanctioned this student organization and are allegedly financing it. Members assigned to the headquarters receive information concerning leftist activities from the company members in the school, and they, in turn, work in conjunction with the Korean Army intelligence and the Metropolitan Police. Meanwhile, the Department of Education has been attempting to organize a NATIONAL STUDENT'S GUARDING CORPS, and it is believed that members of the embryonic GREAT KOREA STUDENT'S VOLUNTEER CORPS will be integrated into that organization as soon as organizational plans are completed. (B-3)

COMMENT: The Department of Education, upon constant urging by the police, has now made an overt attempt to rid the schools of communistic elements. However, it is believed that if strong supervisory measures are not taken at the start, this student organization will rapidly become a terrorist group. (page 2, P/R #1012)

3. PSYCHOLOGICAL

Translation of SEOUL Newspapers (see Incl #1)

4. SABOTAGE AND ESPIONAGE

Negative

5. WAR POTENTIAL

Negative

PART II

NORTH KOREA

1. ARMED FORCES

a. Soviet Forces

Summary for the Week (Confidential)

The week ending 18 December 1948 was climaxed by the long expected SOVIET request to discontinue the Liaison Sections which have been maintained by the occupying forces since March 1946. The SOVIETS justify their request by the SOVIET Government's decision to withdraw all SOVIET forces by 1 January 1949. (See P/R #1014 for reply of Commanding General, USAFIK to the SOVIET request).

With regards to positive indications of SOVIET withdrawal sufficient evidence is now available to warrant acceptance of departure of the 251st Ground Attack and the 206th Fighter Divisions from the PYONGYANG and MIRIM-NI airfields. (P/R #1016)

Confidential