

**Military, Political, Economic, Social Situation,  
Press Review, Civil Intelligence, Miscellaneous**

15 Feb

Selected items for the Information of Commanders  
and Staffs of the Far East Command

No. 2351

## MILITARY SITUATION

1. Recent Developments: (Refer to Map No. 2)

a. Armed Forces, Rebels Clash: More than 105 rebels were killed during the period 5-12 Feb by the aggressive action of the Korean Republic's Army and police forces. Approximately 18 soldiers, three policemen, and one civilian were killed during the period. Operations generally were confined to South Cholla, South Kyongsang, and North Kyongsang Provinces and Cheju Island. Forty rebels, one soldier, and one policeman were killed in South Cholla Province during three clashes with Army-police forces. Rebels later attacked and burned a police station. Twenty rebels and two soldiers were killed during mop-up operations conducted by the Korean Army in South Kyongsang Province. Four rebels and two policemen were killed when rebels attacked a police box and police raided a rebel hide-out in North Kyongsang Province. Fifteen soldiers, one civilian, and one rebel were killed on Cheju Island when rebels ambushed an Army convoy. The rebels captured 150 rifles which the convoy was carrying. Forty rebels were killed during a subsequent Army-police operation against them. (a)

A delayed report states that rebels, disguised as police, attacked a police box in North Chungchong Province on 29 Jan. The chief of police was wounded. (a)

Source Comment: The rebel's disguise probably will contribute to a disregard for the uniforms of the Republic's police and the adopting of a "shoot first and ask questions later" policy by both police and Army forces. In addition, civilians may develop a general disrespect for uniforms. (a)

b. Troop Withdrawal Bill Defeated: Backed by a petition bearing the signatures of 71 Assemblymen, a bill advocating the immediate withdrawal of all foreign occupation troops from Korea was defeated by the National Assembly on 7 Feb by a vote of 96 to 35. Although KIM Pyung Hoi introduced the bill, two other Assemblymen, SUH Yong Kil and NO Il Hwan, were most active in securing signatures to the petition. The bill advocated that, "for the realization of the unification of North and South Korea, a request be made of the UN Commission on Korea (UNCOK) for effecting the immediate withdrawal of foreign occupation troops in Korea." The petitioners supported their resolution by declaring that "those who claim the withdrawal of U.S. troops will create a vacuum, ignore the fact that nonwithdrawal reveals the weakness of the police and lack of courage in the Army." The petition pointed out that "nonwithdrawal is contrary to the principle and spirit of the UN General Assembly." (a,b)

Source Comment: Ultra-nationalistic figures like NO Il Hwan are sincerely desirous of seeing the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea. They have continually worked toward that end and have been joined by other more moderate persons who view the apparent decrease in civil unrest since the Yosu-Sunchon rebellion (Intell. Summary 2241) indicative that the Republic's armed forces are sufficiently strong to maintain order. Others feel that it is inconsistent to request continued U.S. occupation at a time when UNCOK is in Korea to observe the withdrawal of foreign troops (Intell. Summary 2291). (b)

## POLITICAL REPORT

2. UNCOK Meets:

a. One Member Absent: The arrival of the Australian representative to UNCOK, Patrick Shaw, and the Chief of the Secretariat, Dr Egon Ranshofen-Wertheimer, left only one important member of the body, the delegate from El Salvador, still absent. Since a majority of the members are in Seoul, regular closed meetings are being held. The first open session of UNCOK was held on 12 Feb. In its meetings to date, UNCOK has been occupied with the problem of Korean unity, and with determining means of gaining entrance into North Korea. (a,c)

(a) USAFIK 38722, 12 Feb (b) USAFIK G-2 P/R 1057, 7 Feb 49 (c) US Mission 38766, 12 Feb 49

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