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INCOMING MESSAGE SM

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38155
12 Feb 49
FROM : CG USAFIK
TO : DA (GSUSA) (INTELLIGENCE DIV)
INFO : CINCFE (G-2)
NR : ZGBI 132 (WEEKLY NBR 59, PERIOD 5 FEB TO 12 FEB 49)

Current.
1. Kim Tong Song, Korean Minister of Public Relations, announced that the state of emerg, declared on 25 Oct 48 in the Yasu-Sunchon Area, Cholla-Namdo Province, and in the Chiri-San (1070-1370) Area now was lifted. The state of emerg on Cheju-Do was terminated a month previously, and the Minister pointed out that his Govt had no intention of declaring an emerg in the vicinity of the 38th Parallel.

Comment: The state of emerg has frequently been called martial law by both Americans and Koreans. This is erroneous, since martial law, as such, has never been declared by the present Korean Govt.

2. The arrival of the Australian Rep to the UN Commission on Korea, 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 membership is present in Seoul, regular closed meetings are being held with the first open session scheduled for 12 Feb.

Most important item on the agenda of the orgn is discussion on means of gaining entrance into North Korea. Dr Ranshofen-Wertheimer appears to have assumed initial leadership in directing conversations of the body.

3. The National Assembly passed a resolution advocating the appointment of a full-time Minister of National Defense in view of the urgency of the present state of civil unrest. At the same time the legislative body moved that the police force be strengthened and better armed and that a more clear-cut div of responsibility between police and the army be effected.

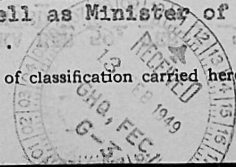
Comment: This resolution appears to supplement other defense proposals of National Assembly members who see the need for a more adequate security force rather than a direct criticism of Lee Eum Suk, who is now premier as well as Minister of National

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Paraphrase not required. Handle as correspondence of classification carried hereon per paragraphs 51i and 60a, AR 380-5. 33

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FROM : CG USAFIK NR : ZGBI 132 (WEEKLY NER 59, PERIOD 5 FEB
TO 12 FEB 49) 12 FEB 49 CONTINUED

Defense.

4. The National Assembly in a secret session voted 96 to 35 against a Bill which would request the immediate withdrawal of all foreign trps from Korean soil.

A petition bearing 71 signatures placed the bill on the floor, but a brief, impassioned speech by Pres Rhee to the legislators immediately before the vote signalized its defeat.

The Pres pointed out that American trps were not in Korea at the present time of their own volition and that they would gladly leave if requested. They were here, he said, at the reqst of the Korean Govt, because they were a stabilizing factor while security forces were being strengthened and because there had as yet been no confirmation by neutral sources that Russian trps had departed from North Korea.

The motion was introduced by Kim Pyung Hoi, but its most ardent backers were two other assemblymen, No Il Hwan and Suh Yong Kki, both of whom have been sponsoring legislation to secure the removal of foreign trps for several months.

Comment: That the small but militant voting bloc led by No and Suh has picked up backing from other assemblymen who are beginning to lose fears predicted on the Yosu-Sunchon uprising was indicated by the nbr of signatures obtained on the original petition. Only the personal intervention of Pres Rhee averted a close vote which could well have come against admin wishes. When the UN Committee has had ample opportunity to negotiate the unification of Korea, it can safely be predicted that the motion will be resurrected in new dressing, regardless of the outcome of the committee's work.

5. The National Assembly announced that a complete census would be taken in Korea in 49. Subsequently, a complete census will be taken thereafter every ten years, starting in 50. A simplified check is scheduled for every 5th year following the regular census.

6. During the month of Jan, 4585 members of the South Korean Labor Party resigned from the orgn in Chungchong-Pukto Province. Promising allegiance to the Korean Govt, the resigning members had their names published in Provincial newspapers.

Comment: The significance of this maj defection is difficult to assess at the present time. It might be assumed that a maj portion of the former South Korean Labor Party members have become disgusted with the terroristic program of that orgn.

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