

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FAR EAST COMMAND  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
RADIO AND CABLE CENTER

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GPM  
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# INCOMING MESSAGE

GPM

*Secret*  
PRIORITY

12 Mar 49

FROM : CG USAFIK  
TO : DA (CSGID)  
INFO : CINCFE (G-2)  
NR : ZQBI 196 (WEEKA NBR 63, PERIOD 5 MAR TO 12 MAR 49)

Current:

1. The National Assembly on 3 Mar adopted by a vote of 86 to 78 that portion of the Local Administration Bill which placed provincial governors and mayors of cities, villages and townships on an elective basis.

Municipal and township leaders will now be elected by direct vote of the electorate, while governors will be selected by vote of provincial, city, village and township Assembly members.

Comment: Passage of this law reduces patronage powers of the Pres who previously appointed governors and mayors of cities.

2. Publication of the Kook Chei Shin Mun, 1 of Seoul's 2 largest newspapers and a consistent supporter of Lee Bum Suk was suspended on 5 Mar by the Office of Public Information.

Comment: Govt spokesmen reported the suspension was predicated on the policy of the paper to underplay certain Governmental releases and to allot too much space to material less popular with the Administration, including an unsupported report that the Governor of Kyongsnae-Pukto had conspired with Communists. The weak Government Bill of Complaint was adequate proof that only in name do Koreans enjoy freedom of the press.

3. Kim Uong Kern, Chief of the Mining Bureau of the Dept of Commerce and Industry, was arrested on 3 Mar by investigators for the Special Investigation Committee under the National Traitor Law.

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Comment: Pres Rhee has refused to comply with that provision of the National Traitor Law which charges him with the responsibility of removing all former Pro-Japanese officials from public office. This arrest, made by the investigative group on its own initiative, involves the 1st important govt official who has come under purview of the law.

4. The Student National Defense Corps was inaugurated in Seoul on 8 Mar. Dedicated to combatting Leftism in the schools, promoting unification of national youth and striving for the gen welfare of Korea 70,000 middle school and college students met in Seoul Stadium to listen to speeches by Premier Lee Bum Suk and other Governmental officials and then paraded through the streets of the city to establish a pattern for the remainder of South Korea.

Semi-military training to be accorded the membership, limited by lack of weapons and other equipment, will be handled by Korean Army jr officer.

Comment: If properly administered, the new organization will serve several useful purposes. Students will learn the fundamentals of discipline, will develop a spirit of national unity and will prove a good source of recruitment for the security forces. There are, however, inherent dangers in an organization of this type. Aside from the possibility that improperly controlled units may commit excesses in countering Communism, giving the Army some control over the nations more mature students provides an entering wedge into the country's educational system which could well be abused.

5. Seoul newspapers on 6 Mar carried stories, datelined Moscow, that Vice-Premier Hong Myong Hi was among a group of North Korean Governmental officials who are visiting in Moscow.

Comment: These stories disprove a previous report that the nbr 2 man in the Pyongyang Govt had secretly defected to South Korea (P/R 1029).

6. Former members of the National Youth Corps, youth organization which was headed by Premier Lee Bum Suk, are said to be joining a new group, the Eagle Friendship Society.

Funds of the new organization are obtained by open operation of several business enterprises in Seoul, including the Sun Newspaper, the Sun Printing Co, and the Sun Motor Svc Co, and by under cover barter with North Korea. (B 3)

Comment: The Premier was coerced by Pres Rhee into bringing his organization into an amalgamated youth gp, the Great Korean Youth Assn, and he undoubtedly is supporting the new organization to retain his grip on a large faction of Korean

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youth.

7. A Group of Seoul young men, including a nbr of followers from lower social strata, are attempting to organize a new political party, the Social Youth Party.

Organizers espouse increased political activities on the part of the nation's youth, public enlightenment, sanitation and the manifestation of truth, goodness and beauty. (B 2)

Comment: Anyone with a brief case and a platform can initiate a political party in Korea. This new organization has little future promise and a short life is predicted.

8. The Cheju Friendship Assn, avowedly organized to promote the welfare of people on the troubled island of Cheju, is being organized in South Korean mainland cities.

With a membership confined to former residents of Cheju-Do the group is suspected of fronting for the Communists. (C 3)

Military:

1. Strength figures of Security Forces as of 10 Mar were as fol: Army - 69,181, Navy - 3,957, Police - 49250.

2. The Korean Army has formed a special combat comd to neutralize rebel activities in the Chiri-San (1070-1370) area. The organization, commanded by Brig Gen Chung Il Kwon, is composed of the fol units: Suwon Bn minus 2 companies ( a special bn organized and equipped to combat guerrilla activities), 1 bn of the 5th Regt, 1 bn of the 9th Regt, 1 bn of the 15th Regt and 2 bns of the 3d Regt.

Comment: The numerically superior and better equipped Army Force should be able to eliminate organized rebel activities in this area, however the rugged mountainous terrain offers advantages to rebel bands, and it is not anticipated that complete neutralization of all rebel activities can be easily attained.

3. Parallel incidents:

A. At 031140 Mar a small det of North Korean troops crossed th 38th parallel near Kal San (895-1695), Hwanghae-Do. They retired when fired on by police.

B. On 3 Mar a Korean Army soldier was captured by a det of North Korea troops who had crossed the 38th parallel in the vicinity of Songam-Ri (1006-1697), Kyonggi-Do.

C. At 032300 a small force of North Koreans invaded the 48369

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