

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

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

19 May 49

No. 2444

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Current Developments:

a. Commander May Be Dead: Captain KIM Sung Sam, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Korean Navy, recently expressed the opinion that Commander WHANG Un Seu and Lieutenant LEE Ki Chang were killed during the defection of the Korean Navy's yard mine sweeper "Kang Wha," 10 May 49 (Intell. Summary 2439). Capt KIM indicated that he is suspicious of the senior engineer, who was aboard the "Kang Wha" when it sailed to the North Korean port-city of Wonsan. (a)

Comment: Although Commander WHANG was responsible for the actions of the "Kang Wha's" personnel, this report substantiates a previous one to the effect that the defection was initiated by persons other than WHANG (Intell. Summary 2439). It is possible that the Naval officers were killed, as similar tactics were used by former members of the Korean Coast Guard, 7 May 49, when two Koreans killed the captain and executive officer of the "Tong Chun," and forced the remainder of the crew to take the vessel to a North Korean port (Intell. Summary 2153).

b. Death Sentence Threatened: SHIN Sung Mo, Minister of National Defense, issued a directive, 7 May, which stipulates that the death sentence will be enforced on unit commanders found guilty by a court-martial of leading or causing his troops to violate the 38th Parallel. (B-2) (b)

Comment: In view of Minister SHIN's outstanding reputation, it is believed that he will enforce the directive rigidly. This action should contribute to stabilizing the situation along the border. The directive apparently is designed to restrain trigger-happy South Korean commanders. The severe punishment authorized by the directive should preclude indiscreet actions by South Korean commanders which might precipitate a war between North and South Korea. Issuance of the order suggests that government officials are apprehensive of the combat capabilities of the Republic's armed forces in the event border clashes lead to war with North Korea.

c. Combat Command Dissolved: The Korean Army's combat command, organized in March to neutralize rebel activities in the eastern half of South Cholla Province (Intell. Summary 2379), recently was dissolved. Units of the organization have returned to their home stations. The organization was commanded by Brigadier General CHUNG Il Kwon. (B-2) (b)

Comment: Apparently the Korean Army believes that the combat command has completed its mission. Dissolution of the organization will permit its elements to return to parent organizations for intensified training, interrupted by operations which spread from the mountainous regions of the eastern sector of South Cholla Province to the western sector of South Kyongsang Province.

POLITICAL REPORT

2. Cheju Island Elections:

a. Native Sons Elected: HONG Son Byung and KIM To Hyun, native sons of Cheju Island, were elected to National Assembly seats from Cheju Island, 10 May, in an election which was marked by its quietness. Both future Assemblymen are in an election which was marked by its quietness. Both future Assemblymen are members of President RHEE Syngman's conservative National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence. (b)

Source Comment: Both Assembly seats have been vacant for a year, since the 1948 elections in two of the island's three districts were invalidated by the U.S. Military Governor because of Communist-inspired disturbances. (b)

Comment: Apparently CHANG Taik Sang, who was scheduled to compete in the election (Intell. Summary 2434), was unable to garner sufficient votes to win a seat in the Assembly. The election of native sons reemphasizes Cheju natives' reluctance to accept Korean mainland leaders. Election of the two candidates completes the authorized 200-man Assembly for the first time in the Republic's history.

(a) CNO 70405, 16 May 49

(b) USAFIK 69819, 13 May 49

- 5 -

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O. 12865