

KOREA

Military, Political, Economic, Social Situation,
Press Review, Civil Intelligence, Miscellaneous29 May 49
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and Staffs of the Far East Command

POLITICAL REPORT

1. Recent Developments:

a. More Assemblymen Arrested: Two more Assemblymen, LEE Koo Soo and HWANG Woon Ho, were arrested by Seoul police, 20 May, and charged with associating with Communists. Two legislators previously had been arrested, 18 May, on similar charges (Intell. Summary 2452). Both of the Assemblymen are from South Kyongsang Province, and are classified as nonpartisans. They have been identified consistently with the young, progressive group of legislators who generally have been in opposition to the present government. Neither has been prominent in Assembly activities. (B-2) (a)

Comment: It will be interesting to note whether the arrest of the four Assemblymen will influence the 60-odd young, progressive legislators sufficiently to support measures advocated by President RHEE.

b. Special Session: The special session of the Korean Republic's National Assembly opened formally in a ceremonial meeting 21 May (Intell. Summary 2439). The legislators will be confronted by an imposing array of problems. Approximately 50 measures have been submitted for consideration, including the local government reform bill (Intell. Summary 2429), the land reform bill (Intell. Summary 2447), the grain collection program (Intell. Summary 2440), and several other measures which have caused sharp divergences of opinion between the executive and legislative branches of the government. Certain to complicate further the already strained relations between the legislative and executive branches will be the arrests of the four Assemblymen on 18 and 20 May. The special session is scheduled to end 19 Jun, but it is doubtful if the heavy program will be completed by that time. (B-2) (a)

Comment: A previous report stated the special session would open 16 May (Intell. Summary 2440). The Assembly may encounter considerable difficulty in passing bills on local government reform and grain collection that will meet with President RHEE's approval. If the Assembly continues to submit bills to the Chief Executive that do not meet with his approval, he probably will return the measures without actually vetoing them. RHEE has followed this course of action in the past (Intell. Summary 2414). Such action would amount to killing the bill during the current special session.

MISCELLANEOUS

2. Civil Disturbances 1-30 Apr 49:

a. Pattern Changes: Aggressive action by the Republic's armed forces during April resulted in further dispersal of rebel activities in South Korea. The pattern has changed considerably. Although many incidents occurred in South Cholla Province, it is apparent that the pattern has moved to the eastern half of the mainland and that incidents are more widely scattered. Cheju Island continues to be relatively quiet, although approximately 61 rebels were killed and 293 captured. Korean authorities tend to take the view that all natives who live in the interior of the island are rebels. Approximately 125 rebels were killed on the Korean mainland during the period. More than 20 civilians and 20 soldiers and policemen were killed while suppressing the rebels. (b)

b. Recapitulation of Incidents: (Refer to Map No. 4)

- 1 - Myongyon: Two rebels were killed, 28 Apr, when they attacked a police box. (C-3) (c)
- 2 - Masong: One rebel was killed, 28 Apr, raiding a police box. (C-3) (c)
- 3 - Chupyeong: Two policemen were killed, 13 Apr, during a rebel raid. (C-3) (d)
- 4 - Yongdong: Two policemen were killed during a 4 Apr rebel raid. (C-3) (e)

- (a) USAFIK G-2 P/R, 1119, 23 May 49
- (b) G-2 Comment
- (c) USAFIK G-2 P/R, 1112, 6 May 49

- (d) USAFIK G-2 P/R, 1103, 15 Apr 49
- (e) USAFIK G-2 P/R, 1100, 8 Apr 49

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