

CINCPAC CITE ZPOL 4969. HODGE SENDS FOR JACOBS

Up to hour of preparation this message (7 p.m., May 10) election in Seoul has passed off without sufficient incidents to seriously affect election on large scale and reports from provinces received so far indicate same thing. Total reported killed today are 18 (5 police, 9 Communists and 4 Rightists). Even though this figure may increase as reports come in, total casualties for 20 million people should be comparatively light. Voting in Seoul was heavy, over 90% of registrants. Reports from provinces also indicate heavy vote. No reports received from Cheju Island.

JACOBS

• 정치관련 개요(1948. 5. 11)

OFFICIAL Department of State Washington, D.C. Following is political summary for period April 1st through April 30th, 1948:	AIR ROUTE MAY 25 1948 Office of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS Department of State Date of sailing: May 17, 1948 May 25, 1948 8:50 a.m.
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V. DISORDERS.

Organized Communist-directed violence begun February 7 was intensified in period, its subjects including election officials, election candidates, voting booths and Rightist leaders as well as police and police boxes. Total killed rose to 154 (including policemen), as compared with 107 in March (20 policemen) and in February (33 policemen). Increased total of deaths is counted for by disturbances in Cheju Island, where 67 (including policemen) were killed and where virtual guerilla conditions were developed from April 3rd outbreak. Cheju, dominated by radicals, has always resented peace preservation by mainland police, and in March 1947 sizeable police reinforcements had to be flown to island to quell general strike arising from alleged wrongs against mainland police and officials. Recent arrivals of Rightist youth squads added to latent resentment of islanders, that Communist agitators found them ready allies in current campaign. The Military Governor flew to island at close of month to survey the situation.

To meet Communist program and protect preparations for election, several new and extraordinary measures were taken. On government offices and substations were kept under emergency guard. Use of deputized citizens to assist in peace preservation authorized. To prevent possible abuse of this by police or political parties, Military Governor on 21st proclaimed organic

defining functions of such deputies, after issuing explanatory statement day before. In this statement General Dean said that service as deputies was voluntary, that the purpose was to help police maintain order during elections, that they were under jurisdiction of local administrative official who alone had authority to summon deputies, and that no political youth groups would be allowed to perform protective functions as such. National police force also was further strengthened by establishment of mobile police groups, equipped with bicycles and armed with U.S. Army carbines.

Indicative perhaps of sharpening intimidation, terrorism and of nerves on part of Communists was revival of ancient system signal bonfires on mountain tops. Numerous such fires attributed Communist signaling were reported over wide areas in period.

Special precautions against May Day riots were taken by police. 27th editors of three Leftist press were arrested for printing praise of violence and alleged refusal to the Communist Trade Union (Chun Hyung) of permission to hold separate celebration of May and inciting citizens to join violence.

On 22nd dispute developed at Taegu between procurators and police over question of warrants, leading to alleged police violation of district court. On 24th Chief Procurator left Seoul to look into dispute, which seems to be related to standing rivalry between two branches of law enforcement.

남한 선거 시찰(1948. 5. 12)

No. 124

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RESTRICTED

Office of U. S. Political Adviser
Seoul, Korea, Hqs., XXIV Corps, APO 23
c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.
May 12, 1948

SUBJECT: Observation of Elections in South Korea

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

SIR:

There is enclosed herewith a memorandum of Vice Consul David E. Mark of my staff describing his tour of the countryside and small towns within a day's distance of Seoul at election time.