

attempt on President RHEE fails; police discover dynamite charges. National Assembly passes Government Administration Bill.

KOREA

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

Selected items for the information of Commanders
and Staffs of the Far East Command

No. 2241

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Constabulary Revolt: (Refer to Map No. 1a)

(a) Initiated at Yosu: Forty enlisted men from a battalion of the 14th Constabulary Regiment of the Korean Republic's Security Forces, scheduled for transfer to Cheju Island, initiated a revolt at Yosu at 0200 hours 20 Oct. Yosu police and local railroad police attempted to quell the disturbance but were unsuccessful when the Constabularymen were reinforced by approximately 450 civilians.

The revolt spread when the mutineers commandeered five cars of a Suncheon-bound train, and, arriving there at 0930 hours attacked the station and engaged in a fire fight with railroad and South Cholla provincial police. Members of the South Korean Coast Guard reportedly joined the mutineers at Suncheon, and fighting was still in progress on 21 Oct. An unrevealed number of the mutinous Coast Guardsmen reportedly were moving from Suncheon to Mokpo at 1500 hours 20 Oct. U.S. observers estimated mutineer strength in Suncheon at 2,400 men on the morning of 21 Oct. One South Korean Police Constabulary battalion was committed against a force of 1,000 mutineers which advanced on Namwon on the night of 20 Oct, while an unconfirmed report indicates that the police at Yonsampo were attacked by the mutineers. The number of casualties has not been revealed.

A South Korean Coast Guard vessel reportedly was prevented from entering the Yosu harbor by fire from the mutineers, who were carrying red flags. Constabulary units in other areas of South Korea report that no disaffection is evident among their units and that they are eager to join in fighting the rebels. (a,b)

Comment: It is significant that the commander of the 14th Constabulary Regiment was one of the Constabularymen arrested on 1 Oct in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the Government of the Korean Republic (Intell. Summary 2240). South Cholla Province has long been a Communist stronghold and Communists are known to have infiltrated Constabulary ranks. Reinforcement of the mutineers by civilians indicates a Communist interest in the incident, and the use of red flags further indicates the possibility that the Communists seized the opportunity to spread the disturbance to other localities. Discipline in some units of the Constabulary is weak, and it is possible that the revolt was initiated because of the scheduled transfer to Cheju Island.

• 여순반란의 진압상황(1948. 10. 26)

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KOREA

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

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

No. 2244

MILITARY SITUATION

1. General Situation: (Refer to Map No. 4)

(a) Capture of Yosu Expected: Reconnaissance troops of South Korea's loyal Constabulary have advanced to within six miles of Yosu in an attempt to capture the city from dissident forces who rebelled against the Korean Government (Intell. Summary 2241). An assault landing was made on Yosu on 23 Oct by 338 loyal Constabularymen who boarded an LST at Pusan. Approximately 70 members of the 14th Constabulary Regiment, units of which precipitated the revolt, jumped aboard a Korean Coast Guard LST after the raid of Yosu. The men, reportedly loyal Constabularymen who were escaping the mutineers, were taken to Pusan for interrogation. The capture of Yosu was expected on 25 Oct, according to a loyal Constabulary report. Loyal forces captured Posong on 24 Oct after advancing on the city from the north. Constabulary headquarters announced that five battalions of loyal forces were in position in Suncheon on 24 Oct. General SONG Ho Seung, Constabulary commander of the troops in the field, apparently plans to send most of the forces to the southwest to clear the dissidents from the area between Posong and Suncheon.

Reports indicate that an undetermined number of rebels who escaped from the Suncheon area are moving to the Chiri mountains, a notorious guerrilla hideout. Constabulary reports indicate that some of the rebels have thrown away their arms and are escaping from the loyal forces by wearing civilian clothes. The rebels advanced to attack a main police box at Koksung on 22 Oct according to a police report. However, it has not been announced if the attack was carried out. The mutineers are reported to be in Kwangyang, while a police box in Nagan reportedly is under control of the rebels. The situation around the two cities was obscure as of 24 Oct.

Interrogation of the 26 prisoners captured while en route to Posong (Intell. Summary 2242) indicates that they were told at the beginning of the mutiny that some members of the police had revolted and the 14th Regiment had been ordered to suppress the revolt.

(b) Communist Participation: Communist participation in the revolt is indicated in numerous reports which state that the North Korean flag (Intell. Summary 2181) has been prominently displayed in Yosu, and that rebels have marched in the streets of the city carrying red flags and singing Communist songs. Air observers reported that North Korean flags also have been seen on several buildings in Suncheon and Kwangyang. One report indicates that a "People's Court" was established in Suncheon and Yosu, and that policemen, who were prisoners of the mutineers, were tried by the "court" and killed. (a,b,c)

Comment: Reports indicate that the Constabulary is closing in on Yosu, which is the last key town in the hands of the rebels. Loyal Constabularymen probably will encounter many difficulties in apprehending the rebels if they resort to wearing civilian clothes, since many of them may continue to fight as guerrillas after they reach the mountainous areas. Communist activity in the disturbances is indicated by reports concerning the display of the flag of the Soviet puppet Government of North Korea. No announcement has been made as to what action President RHEE Syngman will take against the mutineers or the Communist participants. The number of casualties resulting from the revolt has not been determined.

(c) U.S. Withdrawal Petition: The Communist-dominated South Korean Labor Party (SKLP) is collecting signatures for a petition demanding the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Korea. The petition will be submitted to the UN,

according to many reports. Communist Party members are not to be identified with the movement, but will employ old men, women, and children to do the canvassing.

Source Comment: Captured orders and directives of the SKLP indicate that the organization is using a much sounder technique in obtaining the signatures than was manifest during the underground North Korean election which was held in South Korea (Intell. Summary 2209). (a)

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<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SOUTH KOREAN REVOLT ACTIVITY</u>
① Cheju Island	Three Constabularymen killed in incident. Situation on island under control 23 Oct.
② Kwangju	Rebels reportedly advance toward Kwangju 23 Oct.
③ Hwasun	Cache of small arms captured by loyal Constabularymen 23 Oct.
④ Koksong	Mutineers advance to attack main police box at Koksong 22 Oct.
⑤ Namwon	Third loyal Constabulary Regiment against force of 1,000 rebels 20 Oct.
⑥ Kurye	Elements of loyal Constabulary meet rebels. Situation quiet.
⑦ Chiri San	Mutineers moving toward mountainous areas near Chiri San, notorious guerrilla hideout.
⑧ Pusan	Assault landing against Yosu on 23 Oct originated at Pusan.
⑨ Posong	Posong in loyal hands. Loyal forces suffered 250 casualties in city; hope to trap rebels between Posong and Sunchon.
⑩ Nagan	Mutineers reportedly captured police box. Situation obscure 24 Oct.
⑪ Sunchon	Sunchon first objective of rebels after outbreak. Loyal forces control city.
⑫ Kwangyang	Rebels reportedly in Kwangyang. Situation obscure 24 Oct.

⑬ Yosu



Yosu scene of revolt's outbreak. City still in rebel hands although loyal forces hope to capture it soon. North Korean flag prominently displayed. Assault landing made by loyal forces. Unidentified plane circles city.

⑭ Hadong

22 OCT 48

One battalion of loyal Constabularymen moving from Hadong to Kwangyang. 22 Oct.

· 유엔한국임시위원단의 복귀(1948. 11. 5)

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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5 November 1948

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

KOREA

Disturbances continue; disloyal South Korean Constabularymen commandeer train at Taegu; flee to hills after abandoning train. Fourteen killed in latest disturbance; 100 prisoners held at Taegu. Seventy rebels captured at Kumchon. Constabulary company commander kills battalion commander, flees with 50 men. Communist plot to control Cheju Island reportedly smashed by loyal Constabulary; 135 Communists killed. Disaffected elements apparently coming into open, identifying selves.