

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Unrest in South Korea:

(a) Cause of Yosu Revolt: Possible underlying causes of the Yosu revolt which began on 20 Oct were revealed by a document written by the "soldiers' Committee" in Yosu during the insurrection. The committee stated that its aim was to protect the country from foreign imperialism and accused President RHEE Syngman and Prime Minister LEE Bum Suk of selling their country by forming a separate Government. The people of Cheju Island began a fight against imperialist policy in April, according to the committee, and are dedicating their lives to the defense of their fatherland. The committee claimed that the soldiers in Yosu refused to murder the people of Cheju and would not agree to a plan to be sent to the island. According to the committee, the Yosu revolt was an uprising designed to establish the participants as the "real Korean People's Army" and to obtain the real independence of Korea. The people of Yosu were called upon to join the revolt.

Mass meetings reportedly were held in Yosu and a message of appreciation was sent to "the soldiers of the Great People's Army" for refusing "to slay their brethren on Cheju Island." (a)

Comment: Previous reports of activities of the Yosu mutineers indicated that the Communists either planned the revolt or exploited a spontaneous uprising by Constabulary troops. This document by the Soldiers' Committee not only indicates that the Yosu revolt was instigated by Communist elements but bears evidence of close liaison between Communists on Cheju Island and those on the mainland. Despite the relatively sensational aspects of the first reports on the Yosu uprising, it is probable that South Korean security forces, with proper discretion and backing by Government officials, reasonably can be expected to maintain internal order. The situation with respect to North Korea may worsen as a result of the Soviet withdrawal announcement, and increased infiltration or actual invasion are possibilities which, heretofore, have been restrained by Soviet authorities. The period required for the RHEE Government to gain experience, strength, and stability cannot be determined definitely.

2. North Korean Troops in South Korea:

(a) Fighting in Kangwon Province: A group of approximately 150 North Korean People's Army (PA) troops engaged South Korean police in a fire fight near Hoengson, South Korea, about 50 miles northeast of Seoul, on 15 Nov according to a police report. South Korean casualties consisted of one killed and four missing. Another report from Constabulary sources states that 60 PA soldiers in position, in the same general area, were being attacked by South Korean police and one Constabulary battalion on 14 Nov. Other reports state that between 60 and 500 PA personnel are operating in the Hoengsong area, some in civilian clothes. One PA soldier reportedly was killed in the operations and a Japanese 99 rifle was recovered. (F-6)

XXIV Corps Comment: No indication was given in the reports as to how the people in civilian clothes were identified as PA soldiers, nor have U.S. personnel been able to recover the body of the PA casualty. It is considered probable that the forces reported near Hoengsong are guerrillas who have operated periodically in the area since the summer of 1948. (b)

Comment: Although the sources of the above reports, the South Korean police and Constabulary, often are inaccurate and given to exaggeration, it is possible that PA troops have infiltrated across the 38th Parallel and are engaging in preliminary attacks against South Korean forces. However, the reports are fragmentary, have not been confirmed, and sufficient evidence is not available to determine their significance accurately.

• 남한의 일반정세(1948. 11. 20)

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MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

INTELLIGENCE DATA

COVERING THE MILITARY

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

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JAPAN

KOREA

PHILIPPINES

CHINA-MANCHURIA

SOUTHEAST ASIA

N. E. I.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NO.
2265

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

DATE
20 November 1948

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

③ NORTH KOREA

North Korean 9th Border Constabulary Battalion Hq moves closer to 38th Parallel; movement made from Chorwon to Yonchon in Central Korea; believed related to visit to parallel by North Korean leader KIM Il Sung.

North Korean People's Army, Chinese Communist Forces reportedly to establish joint headquarters in Hamhung; construction of CCF barracks temporarily interrupted in this east coast city.

⑤ KOREA

Six unidentified fighter type aircraft in formation, one four-engine bomber sighted over Cheju Island; fighters break formation at 10,000 feet altitude, depart in various directions. South Korean Constabulary pilot deserts with liaison plane; heads for North Korea.

No major economic repercussions result from Yosu revolt; blackmarket price of cereals drops. Crop yields for 1948 unusually good; rice collection program has not gained real momentum.

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

MILITARY SITUATION

1. South Korean Aerial Activity:

(a) Unidentified Aircraft Sighted: Six unidentified fighter-type aircraft, flying in formation, were sighted on 17 Nov approaching Cheju Island, approximately 50 miles off the southern tip of Korea. The planes were flying at an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet, on a southeasterly course, when they broke formation and departed in various directions. Shortly before the fighters were observed, a four-engine bomber, similar in design to a B-29, was sighted circling Cheju Island at an estimated altitude of 2,000 feet. It departed the area in an easterly direction. (A-2) (a)

Comment: These aircraft possibly were Soviet planes, although no information has been received which would establish their identity.

(b) South Korean Pilot Deserts: An unidentified South Korean Constabulary pilot confiscated a liaison plane and took off from a South Korean airfield for North Korea on 18 Nov. The incident occurred at Kimpo Airfield, approximately 18 miles northwest of Seoul. (A-1) (b)

Comment: This incident indicates that Communist infiltration into the South Korean Constabulary has not been confined to infantry units, but has extended to flying personnel. It also indicates a drastic need for increased efficiency in screening the armed forces of South Korea and elimination of disaffected personnel.

ECONOMIC REPORT

2. General Situation:

(a) Prices Steady: No major economic repercussions have resulted from the revolt in South Korea, and the area outside of South Cholla Province remains generally quiet. Over-all prices remained generally steady during the last 10 days of October, with October prices at least five per cent below the September average. A drop of 25 per cent in the blackmarket price of cereals during October has checked temporarily an upward trend of other prices. The blackmarket price of rice in Seoul is approximately 50 yen a pound. Communists reportedly seized only 50 million yen out of 400 million yen in banks in Yosu and Suncheon during their occupation of the towns. The hydroelectric plant near Posong, with a rated capacity of 3,000 kilowatts, apparently was not damaged seriously by the insurgents.

(b) Unusually Good Crops: A National Crop Reporting Board check on actual harvests throughout South Korea indicates that the yields for 1948 are unusually good. However, the damage to crops from typhoons and floods in the southern provinces was found to be greater than anticipated in preharvest estimates. The 1948 rice-collection program is under way, but the program has not yet gained any real momentum. The Government is concentrating instead upon collecting rental rice from tenants on Korean-owned farms and rice due as payment on vested farms. The maximum total receipts from these two sources is estimated at 12,797,500 bushels, which is one-third of the purchase goal of 38,392,500 bushels. Government stocks of cereals totaled approximately 185,000 metric tons on 1 Nov. The Government plans to hold the daily staple ration at 1,050 calories per person during November and December, making the monthly consumption, including supplementary and special rations, approximately 95,000 metric tons. The ration could be increased to 1,315 calories a day during most of 1949, if the Government attains the rice-purchasing goal.

Agricultural Minister CHO Bong Am is confident that the purchase goal can be attained, and stated recently that he hoped to raise the standard ration to 1,580 calories during November. However, most Korean and U.S. observers feel that the Government will not collect more than one-half of the proposed goal unless it exhibits considerably more drive and efficiency than it has thus far. Many Koreans feel that Minister CHO is more interested in building a political machine than a department that will operate efficiently. Wholesale personnel changes, either already effected or proposed, have sharply lessened the operating efficiency of the Department of Agriculture and subordinate agencies. (c)

• 정체불명 비행기 미군기로 확인(1948. 11. 27)

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