

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)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FAR EAST COMMAND

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

INTELLIGENCE DATA
COVERING THE MILITARY
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

FIELDS IN:

JAPAN
KOREA
PHILIPPINES
CHINA-MANCHURIA
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N. E. I.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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2271		27 November 1948

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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NORTH KOREA

Current threats of a PA invasion of South Korea reveal operational details; show North Korean public opinion divided on significance of presence of troops at parallel. Training installation established at Chinnampo. Radio code reportedly in use by PA.

North Korean Department of Internal Affairs reportedly reorganizes security forces.

Approximately 200 North Koreans, possibly North Korean People's Army troops, attack South Korean police box; no casualties reported. Raid may mark beginning of series of similar actions.

3

SOUTH KOREA

Rebel resistance being suppressed as South Korean security forces kill, capture mutineers in Kurye, Chiri Mountain areas. Constabularymen repel raiders in Yongwol area.

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. Unrest in South Korea: (Refer to Sketch No. 1)

(a) Mop-up Operations Continue: South Korean security forces are making gradual progress in suppressing scattered mutineer resistance in the Yosu revolt area (Intell. Summary 2258). Constabulary sources have announced that 175 mutineers were killed and 166 prisoners captured during the period 12-19 Nov. (a) A subsequent announcement stated that 200 mutineers were killed and 400 captured on 19 and 20 Nov as a result of mop-up operations around Kurye. (b) Mutineers killed and captured around Kurye presumably were in addition to those listed in the former announcement. Loyal Constabulary forces are continuing mop-up operations in the Chiri Mountains. (a)

The "Seoul Times" reported that a General Court had announced the sentences of 35 civilians who were convicted of participation in the Yosu revolt. Twelve were sentenced to be executed, nine were sentenced to life imprisonment; 11 received 20 years imprisonment and three were sentenced to five years imprisonment. The newspaper also reported that 3,000 persons were arrested in Kwangju during the period 27 Oct to 20 Nov as suspected Leftists who participated in the rebellion. (c)

Constabulary patrols killed five raiders and captured six on the night of 24 Nov when they contacted approximately 150 raiders in the Yongwol area, approximately 35 miles southeast of Hoengsong (Intell. Summary 2264). The prisoners were taken to Seoul for interrogation. (d)

Source Comment: It is suspected that the figures of 200 mutineers killed and 400 captured around Kurye during a two day period are exaggerated but the announcement indicates that Constabulary troops are meeting with success in mopping-up the revolt area. (b)

Comment: It is possible that the raiders drifted south from the Hoengsong area, but installations in the Yongwol area may have been their objective. The Yongwol thermal electric plant and coal mines are an inviting target for Communist saboteurs. Destruction or damage to the plant and/or mines could cause additional hardships on South Korea's economy and living conditions. Interrogation of the prisoners may reveal the mission of the raiders and other pertinent information.

(b) Aircraft Identified: Six fighter-type aircraft and a four-engine bomber, which were sighted on 17 Nov over Cheju Island, approximately 50 miles south of the Korean mainland, (Intell. Summary 2265) were later identified as U.S. planes. (A-1) (e)

Comment: On the basis of an earlier report it was thought possible that the aircraft were Soviet.

(c) Iron Curtain: "The Iron Curtain of the 38th Parallel was not made by the desire of the Korean people, and they do not want to endure all the difficulties that arise from its existence," according to an announcement by the South Korean Government's Office of Public Information. "The Allied Powers are responsible for the existence of the Iron Curtain," the announcement stated, and "it is their duty to solve the many problems which are the result of it. Withdrawal of Soviet and U.S. forces from Korea is a basic demand of the Korean people," the official release stated, "and it might properly be requested out of the spirit of independence. However, it must be realized there is strong Communist pressure behind men of those political parties which strongly insist upon the withdrawal of all foreign troops." The Government's release concluded by stressing that the withdrawal of U.S. forces must be considered carefully because it has an important political aspect which influences the policy of the South Korean Government, the security of the Pacific area, and the problem of peace and order in South Korea. (f)

• 제주도 소요 상황(1948. 12. 21)