

reported in South Korea during 26 Feb-5 Mar. The rebels captured one light machine gun, eight carbines, and 10 Japanese rifles. Delayed reports state that 39 rebels, eight civilians, nine policemen, and two members of local defense corps units were killed in 16 clashes between the Republic's armed forces and rebels in South Cholla Province during 14-24 Feb. Other delayed reports for the same period state that 11 rebels were killed in five clashes between police and rebels in North Kyongsan Province. Using spears, members of the People's Protective Corps executed 76 rebels on Cheju Island on 20 Feb.

National police in Seoul arrested 58 leftists suspected of planning riots and disturbances for 1 Mar, and 69 students, members of the Democratic Students' Alliance, a leftist organization. However, no reports have been received concerning serious civil disturbances, Communist uprisings, or riots occurring on 1 Mar, Sam Il Day. (a)

Source Comment: Sam Il Day on 1 Mar is an historic day in Korea. It derives its significance from the revolt of Korean patriots against the Japanese occupation in 1919. In the past, it has been marked by widespread Communist uprisings and demonstrations. Extensive counter-preparations by the police probably discouraged the Communists from implementing plans for widespread disturbances on 1 Mar 49. Brutality against humans, even though rebels, and the denial of due process of law, has been forcefully brought to the attention of high Korean officials, and it has been pointed out that such action by mobs is contrary to U.S. precepts of democracy. (a)

Comment: The decreased number of civil disturbances in South Korea may be due in part to aggressive military action and the screening of dissidents from the armed forces. Also, the people may realize that the Government is in control of the situation, and capable of punishing dissidents.

• 좌익의 온상 제주도, 통제되기 시작(1949. 3. 18)

<b>SECRET</b>		
<b>GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FAR EAST COMMAND</b>		
<b>MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF</b>		
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		
<i>Selected items for the information of Commanders and Staffs of the Far East Command</i>		
<b>NO.</b>		<b>DATE</b>
<b>2382</b>		<b>18 March 1949</b>

## 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. 2382

### POLITICAL REPORT

#### 1. Recent Developments:

a. Newspaper Suspended: The Korean Republic's Office of Public Information suspended publication of the "Kook Chai Shin Mun," one of Seoul's two largest newspapers, on 5 Mar. The newspaper has been a consistent supporter of Prime Minister LEE BUN SUK. (a)

Source Comment: Government spokesman reported that the newspaper was sus-

pended because of its policy of underplaying certain government releases and allotting excessive space to material less popular, with the present administration. The weak Government complaint is additional proof that only in name do Koreans enjoy freedom of the press. (a)

b. Youths Join New Groups: Former members of the Korean National Youth Corps, formerly headed by LEE Eun Suk, reportedly are joining a new group called the Eagle Friendship Society. The new organization is obtaining funds from several Seoul business enterprises and by undercover barter with North Korea. (B-3) (a)

Source Comment: Prime Minister LEE was persuaded by President RHEE to bring his organization into an amalgamated youth group (Intell. Summary 2300), the Great Korean Youth Corps. LEE probably is supporting the new organization in order to retain his grip on a large faction of Korean youth. (a)

c. New Leftist Party: The Cheju Friendship Association, avowedly organized to promote the welfare of the people on troubled Cheju Island, is being organized in South Korean mainland cities. With a membership confined to former residents of Cheju Island, the group is suspected of fronting for Communists. (C-3) (a)

Comment: If this report is true, the Communists may be attempting to build up their strength on Cheju Island, where they have intimidated a large percentage of the population into following their doctrine. Although guerrilla forces have been active on the island for several months, reports indicate that they are being brought under control gradually by loyal forces. The Communist rule-or-ruin policy has been demonstrated through a scorched earth program, including the burning of the provincial capital on 3 Jan (Intell. Summary 2315). The Korean Army has met marked success in eliminating rebels from the island, and USAFIK estimates that only 300-500 remain there.

· 도두리 습격(1949. 3. 27)

<del>SECRET</del>		
<b>GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FAR EAST COMMAND</b>		
<b>MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF</b>		
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		
	<i>Selected Items for the Information of Commanders and Staffs of the Far East Command</i>	
<b>NO.</b>		<b>DATE</b>
<b>2391</b>		<b>27 March 1949</b>

**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*

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**1. Rebel Activity:**

a. Organization: Rebel strength in western South Kyongsang Province consists of 310 men, divided into eight companies of about 38 men each (F-2), according to a recently captured former Korean Army soldier of the old 14th Regiment, elements of which precipitated the Yosu-Sunchon revolt of Oct 48 (Intell. Summary 2242). HONG Sun Suk commands the rebels and is assisted by KIM Chi Wai.