among the civilian populace of the island. An estimated one-fourth of the 300,000 islanders have been displaced from their razed villages and have moved to coastal areas. Food, clothing, and medicinal stocks are low, and only in the last two weeks of March have needed relief supplies from the mainland begun to arrive on the island in noticeable quantities. Housing materials, stone and mud, are in abundance all over the island. The food situation is, and will continue to be, a pressing problem. Farmers have been allowed to move approximately five miles inland to resume farming, but they are handicapped by the distances to their present dwellings and wanton destruction of draft animals by both rebels and the armed forces. (a)

Source Comment: While the over-all picture looks bright, any cessation of activities on the part of Korean Army units probably will result in fresh outbreaks of terrorism, unless the 250 armed rebels are killed or captured or their arms confiscated. Present plans of cleaning out the rebels entirely before the middle of April appear optimistic. One captured rebel leader has admitted that present plans of the rebels call for them to keep under cover until the soldiers are removed, at which time raiding activities will be resumed. Col YU is attempting to ferret the rebels from their hiding places by direct operations, but the rebels have continued moving and have suspended their activities. (a)

▪ 반란행위의 쇠퇴(1949. 4. 12)

SECRET

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

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NO. 2407

DATE 12 April 1949

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

(4) NORTH KOREA

Six incidents along 38th Parallel; three killed. Three desertions, North Korean armed forces 13-26 Mar.

People's Army Independent Mixed Brigade redesignated 4th Infantry Independent Brigade.

(5) SOUTH KOREA

Marine Corps activated 5 Apr; 500 recruits receiving training; officer cadets to be obtained from Army Military Academy. Rebel activity declines 2-9 Apr. Prime Minister submits resignation; acceptance doubtful;

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. Recent Developments:

a. Marine Corps Activated: A Korean Marine Corps, activated on 5 Apr, will have a strength of approximately 1,000, according to present plans, based upon 25 per cent of the current naval strength of 4,042. Five hundred recruits for the Republic's new "arm of the service" are being trained at a school in Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province. Officer cadets of the marine corps will be obtained from the Korean Army's Military Academy in Seoul (Intell. Summary 2302). After six months' training at the military academy, the prospective marine corps officers will be transferred to the naval academy at Chinhae for completion of their course and subsequent commissioning. (C-3) (a)

Comment: The law on the organization of the national armed forces, passed by the National Assembly on 15 Nov 48, does not provide for a marine corps (Intell. Summary 2281). Activation of the marine corps is an ambitious undertaking, for a country economically weak as Korea. This action will cause a further drain on the Republic's budget, and places approximately 126,450 men, including the National Police, under arms. The Korean Republic continues to expand its armed forces despite the fact that it cannot arm and equip them without outside aid, presently coming from the U.S. However, President RHEE Syngman appears optimistic and recently sent an envoy to the U.S. to request additional arms and equipment (Intell. Summary 2394).

b. Rebel Activity Declines: Rebel activity in South Korea continued to decrease during the period 2-9 Apr. Minor incidents occurred in widely scattered areas throughout the southern provinces. South Cholla Province, scene of major rebel activity on the mainland in the past, remained quiet during the period. Operations by government forces, against rebels, were the only activities reported. Meanwhile, the main body of rebels in the western sector of South Kyongsang Province reportedly has moved into North Cholla Province. The rebels are under the leadership of KIM Chei Hwei, notorious guerrilla chief. (C-2) (a)

Source Comment: The aggressive action of the Korean Army task force is believed responsible for forcing the rebels to evacuate the mountainous area of western South Kyongsang Province. (a)

Comment: The government has had marked success in eliminating dissidents throughout South Korea, especially in South Cholla and South Kyongsang Provinces and Cheju Island (Intell. Summary 2402, 2403). Continued government successes against the rebels may result in comparative peace and quiet in Korea, after many years of internal strife and disorders.

POLITICAL REPORT

2. LEE Submits Resignation:

a. Not Yet Accepted: Prime Minister LEE Bum Suk submitted his resignation to President RHEE Syngman on 31 Mar, according to reliable Korean government sources. To date, no public announcement has been issued by official government sources. (B-2) (a,b)

Source Comment: The reported action of the Prime Minister likely was predicated on his disappointment over his loss of the Defense Ministry to SHIN Sung Mo in a cabinet shakeup on 21 Mar (Intell. Summary 2386). Although President RHEE has slowly been reducing the political power of Prime Minister LEE, it is doubtful that the resignation will be accepted because of the necessity for government unification. (a)

Comment: Although President RHEE publicly reaffirmed his trust in LEE on 7 Jan (Intell. Summary 2318), a rift between the two personalities has existed which could result in a complete split by LEE resigning from the position of Prime Minister.

▪ 제주도 재선거 실시발표(1949. 4. 19)