

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)

SECRET

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

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

NO.

2414

DATE

19 April 1949

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

③ NORTH KOREA

Soviet Diplomatic Mission to North Korea has five bureaus. Ambassador is liaison agent with Moscow; receives weekly instructions. Marine import, export activities emphasized.

④ SOUTH KOREA

Country almost secure, RHEE announces. U.S.-Korean representatives discuss withdrawal of U.S. troops. Assembly returns government reform bill to RHEE. Election to be held on Cheju Island. Apostolic delegate appointed to government.

KOREA

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

Selected items for the Information of Commanders
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No. 2414

POLITICAL REPORT

1. Current Developments:

a. President RHEE Speaks: The Korean Republic's defense forces are rapidly approaching the point at which the country's security can be assured, providing the new nation is not called upon to face attack from foreign sources, according to an 18 Apr announcement by President RHEE Syngman. RHEE stated, "Discussions are now under way between representatives of the Republic and of the U.S. concerning the establishment of a date for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea. The United Nations Commission on Korea is being advised of the progress of these discussions, and the commission's advice and assistance are playing an integral part in these discussions." President RHEE concluded by commenting on the expected continuation of U.S. aid, and by stating that the discussions comply with several UN resolutions (Intell. Summary 2291). (a)

b. Reform Bill Resubmitted: The Korean Republic's National Assembly, which had recessed 8-11 Apr to allow for hearings on the 1949 budget, returned to action 12 Apr to hear a report from the Legislative and Judicial Committee on its re-examination of the local government reform bill. This measure had been returned to the Assembly on 1 Apr by President RHEE, with the suggestion that the date for implementation of the bill be determined by the executive branch (Intell. Summary 2410).

The committee's report was vaguely phrased, but after another one-day recess for budgetary matters, a group of Assemblymen on 14 Apr decided that the modification suggested by the President had legally altered the original bill, and that presidential changes could in turn be modified by the legislators.

Amended to become effective in 90 days, the Assembly passed the bill by a vote of 86 to 83, and it was again returned to the President. (b)

Source Comment: It would appear that a dangerous parliamentary precedent was set when President RHEE returned the measure initially without a formal veto. Assembly opponents of the Chief Executive, unable to muster a two-thirds vote, evaded the rejection by slightly modifying the measure and securing sufficient votes to pass the revision by a simple majority. The President has been placed in a political quandry which will necessitate the vetoing of a measure that has popular public appeal or signing away much of his patronage powers. He probably will adopt the latter course. (b)

c. Cheju Island Elections: Speaking to a large crowd in the public square at the City of Cheju on 9 Mar, President RHEE indicated that elections would be held on Cheju Island, on 10 May, to fill two seats in the National Assembly. The seats have been vacant since the main election of 10 May 48, when the U.S. Military Governor invalidated the ballots in two of the three electoral districts because of Communist terrorism and disruption of voting activities (Intell. Summary 2122). The Chief Executive was accompanied by SHIN Sung Mo, Minister of National Defense, on his one-day aerial visit to Cheju Island. (B-1) (b,c)

Comment: The successful election of two delegates to the National Assembly from Cheju Island will complete the 200-man Assembly for the first time in the Republic's existence. Apparently President RHEE believes that rebel activity on the island will be eliminated or sufficiently under control by 10 May to enable elections to be held in the two districts. The Chief Executive's appearance on the island may instill confidence in the natives, who traditionally dislike and oppose all orders, edicts, and proclamations issued on the Korean mainland.

d. Apostolic Delegate Appointed: Monsignor Patrick J. Byrne, apostolic visitor to Korea, recently was advised by his superiors in Rome that he had been appointed apostolic delegate to the Korean government. (b)

Source Comment: The appointment of the clergyman, who represents the Vatican in lay matters, constitutes papal recognition of the Korean government. (b)

• 소련, 북한에서 비행기 제조(1949. 4. 24)

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2419

DATE
24 April 1949

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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NORTH KOREA

Soviet manufactured airplanes at North Korean airfield; Soviet advisors stationed with People's Army Air Force Training Center; night flights observed.

Vice Minister PAK Yong Sam heads North Korean Police Constabulary Department.

KIM Il Sung, North Korean Premier returns to Pyongyang from Moscow.

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SOUTH KOREA