

POLITICAL REPORT

1. Recent Developments:

e. Retention of U.S. Troops Advocated: A joint society of rightist groups headed by President RHEE, reportedly is preparing posters which advocate delay in the anticipated withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea. The posters will be distributed in Seoul, prior to the 10 May anniversary of the United Nations supervised elections, which led to the establishment of the South Korean Republic. Statements on the posters will urge that U.S. troops remain in South Korea until the departure of Soviet forces from North Korea has been confirmed or until the future of the Republic has been safeguarded. They will also demand abrogation of the United Nations veto power and will announce a mass meeting which will be held on 10 May, in commemoration of the 1948 elections. (B-2)(a)

Source Comment: President RHEE and his followers, concerned over Communist victories in China and the instability of their own government, probably are planning a scheme to secure public support for the retention of the stabilizing influence of U.S. troops, and to forestall a probable future collapse of the shaky RHEE government. (a)

b. Attack on North Korea Rumored: Rumors to the effect that some South Korean Government officials are planning an invasion of North Korea, before the departure of U.S. troops, are circulating among troops of the South Korean Army. The planned invasion is said to be predicated on the reasoning that Chinese Communist troops will soon become available to assist the North Koreans and that there is a better chance of involving the U.S., in the struggle, if U.S. troops are on the scene. (B-3)(a)

Comment: Although the information concerning an invasion of North Korea is unconfirmed, it is possible that some South Korean officials feel that their terms of office will be limited should U.S. tactical forces be withdrawn, as rumored.

c. Election Scheduled for Cheju Island: During the 10 May 1948 election, extensive disturbances occurred on Cheju Island including attacks on voters and polling booths. Election results were declared void, and since that date, two seats in the National Assembly have been held vacant for Cheju Island representatives. An election to fill the seats is scheduled for 10 May 1949. A committee of the United Nations Commission on Korea (UNCOK) was scheduled to depart for Cheju Island, on 8 May, to supervise the election. CHANG Taik Sang, former minister of Foreign Affairs in President RHEE's Government, reportedly will run for a seat in the Assembly as a representative from Cheju Island. (a)

Comment: Extensive military operations have been conducted against guerrilla forces on Cheju Island for several months and the Korean Army has reported marked success in quelling guerrilla activities. Apparently the South Korean Government and UNCOK now feel that the situation on the Island is conducive to a free atmosphere for an election.

d. President RHEE Completes Tour: President RHEE has returned from a 1,500 mile good will tour of the southern provinces of South Korea. During his trip, the chief executive made 20 scheduled speeches to crowds totaling nearly a million persons. (B-2)(a)

Comment: Apparently President RHEE is attempting to increase his popularity with people of the southern provinces. These provinces have been the scene of most of the dissatisfaction which has been demonstrated against the RHEE Government.

• 제주도 재선거 홍순녕·김도현 당선 (1949. 5. 19)

SECRET

**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
FAR EAST COMMAND
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

No.
2444

DATE
19 May 1949

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

③ **NORTH KOREA**

Twenty four border clashes occur along the 38th Parallel in Korea; casualties reported as 118 dead and 20 wounded.

North Korean Air Force consists of an air regiment, strength 900. Additional 360 troops receive training at Khabarovsk USSR. Plans call for additional draft of 300 men.

④ **SOUTH KOREA**

Two naval officers of defected "Kang Wha" may be dead; senior engineer suspected. Death sentence authorized for commanders guilty of violating 38th Parallel. Combat Command dissolved; units return to home stations. Cheju Island elections quiet; two native sons elected to National Assembly.

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. 2444

MILITARY SITUATION

1. **Current Developments:**

a. **Commander May Be Dead:** Captain KIM Sung Sam, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Korean Navy, recently expressed the opinion that Commander WHANG Un Seu and Lieutenant LEE Ki Chang were killed during the defection of the Korean Navy's yard mine sweeper "Kang Wha," 10 May 49 (Intell. Summary 2439). Capt KIM indicated that he is suspicious of the senior engineer, who was aboard the "Kang Wha" when it sailed to the North Korean port-city of Wonsan. (a)

Comment: Although Commander WHANG was responsible for the actions of the "Kang Wha's" personnel, this report substantiates a previous one to the effect that the defection was initiated by persons other than WHANG (Intell. Summary 2439). It is possible that the Naval officers were killed, as similar tactics were used by former members of the Korean Coast Guard, 7 May 49, when two Koreans killed the captain and executive officer of the "Tong Chun," and forced the remainder of the crew to take the

vessel to a North Korean port (Intell. Summary 2153).

b. Death Sentence Threatened: SHIN Sung Mo, Minister of National Defense, issued a directive, 7 May, which stipulates that the death sentence will be enforced on unit commanders found guilty by a court-martial of leading or causing his troops to violate the 38th Parallel. (B-2) (b)

Comment: In view of Minister SHIN's outstanding reputation, it is believed that he will enforce the directive rigidly. This action should contribute to stabilizing the situation along the border. The directive apparently is designed to restrain trigger-happy South Korean commanders. The severe punishment authorized by the directive should preclude indiscreet actions by South Korean commanders which might precipitate a war between North and South Korea. Issuance of the order suggests that government officials are apprehensive of the combat capabilities of the Republic's armed forces in the event border clashes lead to war with North Korea.

c. Combat Command Dissolved: The Korean Army's combat command, organized in March to neutralize rebel activities in the eastern half of South Cholla Province (Intell. Summary 2379), recently was dissolved. Units of the organization have returned to their home stations. The organization was commanded by Brigadier General CHUNG Il Kwon. (B-2) (b)

Comment: Apparently the Korean Army believes that the combat command has completed its mission. Dissolution of the organization will permit its elements to return to parent organizations for intensified training, interrupted by operations which spread from the mountainous regions of the eastern sector of South Cholla Province to the western sector of South Kyongsang Province.

POLITICAL REPORT

2. Cheju Island Elections:

a. Native Sons Elected: HONG Son Byung and KIM To Hyun, native sons of Cheju Island, were elected to National Assembly seats from Cheju Island, 10 May, in an election which was marked by its quietness. Both future Assemblymen are members of President RHEE Syngman's conservative National Society for the Acceleration of Korean Independence. (b)

Source Comment: Both Assembly seats have been vacant for a year, since the 1948 elections in two of the island's three districts were invalidated by the U.S. Military Governor because of Communist-inspired disturbances. (b)

Comment: Apparently CHANG Taik Sang, who was scheduled to compete in the election (Intell. Summary 2434), was unable to garner sufficient votes to win a seat in the Assembly. The election of native sons reemphasizes Cheju natives' reluctance to accept Korean mainland leaders. Election of the two candidates completes the authorized 200-man Assembly for the first time in the Republic's history.

• 평온한 제주도(1949. 5. 29)

SECRET		
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FAR EAST COMMAND		
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION. GENERAL STAFF		
TABLE OF CONTENTS		
Selected items for the information of Commanders and Staffs of the Far East Command		
NO.		DATE
2454		29 May 1949.