

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. 2573

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Current Developments: (Refer to Map No. 3)

a. Guerrilla Armed Forces Activity: The Korean Army and National Police conducted 28 operations against guerrilla forces in South Korea during the period 16-23 Sep. Concurrently, a substantial increase in guerrilla activity was noted with 14 minor and three major attacks against Government forces. (a) However, Army units in the active areas are being reinforced with the aim of ending the harassment. (b)

The National Police sustained a severe loss near Koesan, when 29 policemen were ambushed by guerrilla forces 16 Sep. All 29 policemen were killed in action. The guerrillas confiscated their uniforms, 22 carbines, two pistols, two sub-machine guns, and one M-1 rifle. (a)

Fifteen civilians were killed and 30 wounded, 19 Sep, when 40 armed and 50 unarmed guerrillas, disguised in police uniforms, lined up the inhabitants of a small undisclosed village and opened fire. National Police, dispatched to the village, killed 21 guerrillas and confiscated one M-1 rifle and eight hand grenades. (a)

Five guerrillas were killed by the National Police, 20 Sep, when an estimated 250 guerrillas attacked Yongam in South Cholla Province. The police managed to drive off the guerrillas after part of the village had been pillaged and burned. One Japanese rifle was confiscated by the police. (a)

Source Comment: An increase in the number of operations against guerrilla forces and mounting guerrilla casualties are due to the "September offensive" Government forces launched recently (Intell. Summary 2568). The co-ordinated effort is gaining momentum in the southern and eastern provinces. (a)

Comment: The 19 Sep incident is one example of the manner in which the guerrillas utilize uniforms captured from Government forces. The guerrillas' disguise probably will contribute to a disregard for the uniform and the adoption of a "shoot first" policy by both police and Army forces. In addition, civilians may develop a general disrespect for Government uniforms. Guerrillas began a concentrated effort to collect uniforms early in 1949.

b. Communist Fronts: Communist forces in South Korea are working in six organizations known as (1) the "Free Guerrilla Force," (2) the "People's Guerrilla Force," (3) the "Special Guerrilla Force," (4) the "Security Force," (5) the "Intermediate Force," and (6) the "Tiger Force," according to information received from the 15th Regimental area at Yosu, port city on the southern coast. Most of the food supply for the Communist forces apparently comes from the Great Korean Young Men's Association, which appears to co-operate willingly with them. In order to train young men (kidnaped from various villages) in Communist tactics, the Communists are establishing a training area approximately 12 miles east of Suncheon. (F-6) (c)

c. Prison Break: Five prison wardens reportedly were killed, 14 Sep, (d) when 368 prisoners escaped from a general prison at Iokpo. (a) A majority of the prisoners were political prisoners from Cheju Island. Armed with an estimated 30 Japanese rifles at the time of their escape, the prisoners were pursued by two companies of soldiers, local National Policemen, and elements from a naval detachment. (d) As of 23 Sep, Government forces had killed 237 prisoners and captured 85. Six prisoners surrendered and 60 more are at large. (a)

Source Comment: Radio Pyongyang aired approximately five detailed accounts of the prison break. The first report was broadcast a few hours after the incident occurred, indicating either clandestine radio connections or prior knowledge of the plans. (a)

Comment: The prisoners still at large probably will attempt to join forces with guerrillas operating in South Cholla Province--scene of the greatest guerrilla concentrations on the Korean mainland.

• 평온한 제주도(1949. 10. 1)

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**GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
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MISCELLANEOUS

1. Civil Disturbances 1-15 Aug 49:

a. Insurgents scattered: Aggressive action by the Korean Republic's armed forces reportedly resulted in the death of more than 170 guerrillas during the period 1-15 Aug. Concurrently, more than 20 soldiers, policemen, and civilians were killed while suppressing the guerrillas. Most of the incidents were scattered in the eastern half of the mainland rather than being concentrated in South Cholla Province, as in the past. Again, Cheju Island was quiet, with no serious incident reported.

• 제주도 사건 관련자 249명 처형(1949. 10. 12)

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INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS

⑤ NORTH KOREA

Border Constabulary locations reported along Korean-Manchurian border.

Soviets reportedly order North Korea to "absorb" South Korea by the end of Oct 49. People's Army warned of possible invasion of North Korea by Korean Army. Leftist Koreans in Japan claim North Korea will attack South Korea 15 Oct 49.