

Trials for approximately 2,000 Communists were completed recently on Cheju Island. Approximately 1,650 persons received prison sentences ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment, while 350 received the death penalty. President Rhee Syngman had not approved the sentences, as of 16 Jul. (a)

Source Comment: It is believed that the police and one battalion are adequate to maintain law and order. The inhabitants want the Army to reduce its forces on the island. (a)

Comment: The reduction of guerrilla activity on Cheju Island can be attributed largely to Col YU Jai Hung, who was sent to Cheju on 2 Mar as an over-all task force commander of the armed forces on the island (Intell. Summary 2402). The 1st Separate Infantry Battalion is subordinate to the Capital Division.

c. Army Increases Strength: The Korean Army increased its strength by more than 5,000 during the period 8-15 Jul, concurrently increasing the over-all strength of the Republic's armed forces. The Army now numbers 86,909 and the Navy 5,407. These figures represent an increase of 5,123 in the Army and a decrease of one in the Navy, since 8 Jul (Intell. Summary 2501). The Korean Army Reserve Corps retained its strength of 33,841, while the National Police remains at 50,484.

Comment: If the Korean Army continues its present rate of expansion, it will reach its authorized strength of 100,000 before 15 Aug 49. Over-all strength of the Republic's armed forces has increased more than 15,000 since the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea (Intell. Summary 2491). All of the increase has occurred in the Army and Army Reserve Corps.

d. Army to Assist Police Training: A recent conference between officials of the Korean Army and National Police was highlighted by a tentative decision that Army officers will assist in training the police. Details of the plan will be released at a later date.

The Army temporarily has discontinued plans for formation of three Army corps. (a)

e. Reporters Accredited: The Korean Army's Public Information Office recently "graduated" 34 Korean reporters from a special school on reporting Army activities. The graduates now are officially accredited to the Army. (a)

Source Comment: Since KIM Koo's assassination (Intell. Summary 2484), the Army has shown an active interest in the press. In one instance, the Army attempted to suppress news "in the interest of the public." (a)

Comment: In view of the Government's readiness to suspend publication of newspapers, which allegedly print stories inimical to the administration (Intell. Summary 2442), it behooves each newspaper to be well versed in reporting news which involves unlimited support of the executive branch of the Government.

· 제주도 공산주의 혐의자 처벌(1949. 8. 14)

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MILITARY SITUATION

1. Current Developments:

a. **Strength Increases:** Over-all strength of the Korean Republic's armed forces, including the National Police and Korean Army Reserve Corps, increased more than five thousand during the period 5-12 Aug. The Army now numbers 91,024, and the National Police 51,980. These figures represent an increase of 5,461 in the Army and 365 in the police, since 5 Aug (Intell. Summary 2524). The Navy's strength remained at 6,735 and the Army Reserve Corps at 33,677. (a)

b. **Guerrillas, Armed Forces Active:** Fifteen guerrilla attacks on villages and police boxes, and 17 operations by the Korean Army and National Police against guerrilla bands were reported during the period 5-12 Aug. Seven minor acts of sabotage also were reported.

Guerrillas reportedly kidnaped 107 civilians in Kyonggi, South Kyongsang, and South Cholla Provinces during the period 31 Jul-6 Aug. A majority of the kidnappings--81--occurred in South Kyongsang Province. (a)

Comment: Such kidnappings may be motivated by the guerrillas' desire to augment their strength--seriously depleted through positive action taken by the Korean Army and National Police.

c. **Communists Sentenced:** During the period 3 Jun-12 Jul, the Korean Government tried 1,652 civilians and 47 military personnel, on Cheju Island, on charges of being Communists or Communist sympathizers. Of this number, 345 were sentenced to death, 238 received life imprisonment, 311 were sentenced to 15 years in prison, and 705 were sentenced to seven years or less in prison. Only 100 escaped punishment. (a)

d. **U.S.-Owned Boat Defects:** A 37-foot, single engine, U.S. Army boat, normally manned by a South Korean naval crew, apparently defected to North Korea during the period 5-12 Aug. It is believed that only a South Korean naval petty officer was aboard the vessel. (a)

Source Comment: The boat had been out of commission with a broken rudder, and drastic action had been threatened if the repairs were not completed immediately. Therefore, the strongest influence for the defection may be one of grudge and panic, rather than political. (a)

e. **Prisoners Recaptured:** Eleven Korean naval men, sentenced to death by court martial for their part in the attempted defection of the Navy's yard mine sweeper "Tong Yong" at Pusan, 21 May (Intell. Summary 2449), attempted to escape confinement 25 Jul. One prisoner was killed, and one wounded prisoner was captured at the time of the prison break. Five more prisoners were recaptured two hours later, and four are still at large. (C-3) (b)

Seven civilians and 21 naval men were arrested as a result of a Naval Intelligence investigation of the defection of the "Tong Yong" and the "Kang Hwa" (Intell. Summary 2439). Eleven of the prisoners were tried by court martial and sentenced to death, and a naval commander was sentenced to 20 years in prison at hard labor. No action has been taken against the other men involved. At the time of the prison break, those prisoners sentenced to death were waiting for a review of their sentence by President RHEE Syngman. (C-2) (b)

f. **Contraband Seized:** A 30-ton, diesel-driven, wooden cargo vessel was apprehended at a South Korean port, 27 Jul. Eight drums of lubricating oil and 370 new and used automobile tires were aboard the vessel. The tires apparently came from a food company in Seoul, and were destined for Chinese Communist Forces in China. (C-3) (b)

Comment: Previous reports have indicated that various companies in Seoul have acted as a "front" or "go-between" for persons attempting to smuggle goods into China. Lubricating oil and tires are critical items for the Chinese Communist Forces as well as for the Chinese Nationalist Forces.

· 제주도 평온(1949. 8. 22)

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