

Sixth) the report that civilians on Chaju Island, where guerrillas have been fighting since April 1948, have largely ceased to aid the raiders, whom they once supported in large majority, and began to help loyal security forces is an extremely encouraging sign. It would indicate that even groups in the rural Korean population which distrust Government authority, eventually even more come to dislike the destructive and cruel practices of the guerrillas who burn villages, terrorize communities, kidnap and conscript villagers, and steal food and supplies. Seventh, December's experience shows that it is possible to have police and constabulary cooperating in action. It also shows both forces improving in aggressiveness, self-confidence, techniques, and results. If these tendencies continue and improve, it is possible that within six months, the internal situation in South Korea will be completely under control of loyal security forces.

IV - The Government

B. Relations with the Executive

Substantial Assembly business concerned matters involving its relations with one or another member of the State Council (Cabinet). Part of this was connected with above-noted activity on the still troubled situation in the revolt areas. The Assembly received a long written and oral report from Premier LEE Bom Suk which summarized operations against dissident groups in the four regions of Chaju Island, South Cholla Province, Kangwon Province, and Taegu, North Kyungang Province (Despatch No. 14, January 10, 1949). The relatively rosy picture which was painted therein (containing for example the figure of three loyal forces dead against 422 rebel dead on Chaju Island since April 1948) did not fully satisfy the Assemblymen who proceeded to organize their own previously mentioned investigation committees and to urge the Government to pardon any rebels who voluntarily surrendered. Certainly, the facts which the Prime Minister disclosed in no way reported the situation as fully or frankly as in Part II of this Despatch.

Respectfully yours,


John J. Muccio

• 제주도에 추가 병력 파견(1949. 2. 2)

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STATE DEPT MSG

From: USPOLAD Seoul, Korea sgd Muccio

To: Secretary of State

Nr: 89

2 February 1949
Rec'd by STATE 2 February 1949

5. Cheju Island. Guerilla activity continues. Additional security forces being sent Cheju for operations against rebels.

• 1949년 1월 정치요약(1949. 2. 9)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Despatch No. 58

CONFIDENTIAL

File

American Mission in Korea

Seoul, February 9, 1949

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subject: Political Summary for January 1949

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

In continuation of Despatch No. 16, January 10, 1949, reporting on political developments in Korea for the month of December 1948, I have the honor to submit herein a review of political events for the month of January 1949.

I Summary

The short history of the Republic of Korea, born into a difficult and somewhat unreceptive world on August 15, 1948, has been a record of tests and crises posing the question of ultimate survival of the Government. Despite a sharp setback in October 1948 with the eight day revolt of Communist-led Korean soldiers and civilians in South Cholla Province, there has been written a story of progressive improvement and greater intrinsic strength month by month. The successes are, it is true, largely negative. The large revolt has been crushed. The Communist guerrillas are kept in reasonable check. The Government maintains its most essential functions and services to the people. It is through these ways that some day, perhaps not too distant, the question will be changed from, "Will the Government survive?" to "Granted that the Government will survive, how much more can it be positively improved to do good for the Korean people?"

VI Communism in South Korea

Although disruption of tranquillity in South Korea still remained serious, total disturbances, especially outside of the South Cholla Province October revolt area, seemed on the decline. This was partially due to the dampening effect which cold winter weather