

• 제주도의 사태전개(1949. 3. 14)

no. 145

American Mission in Korea.
Seoul, March 14, 1949

SECRET - for Department Distribution Only

Subject: Developments on Cheju Island

The American Mission in Korea refers to its despatches no. 113, March 3, 1949, and no. 125, March 5, 1949, on the above-cited subject, as well as several recent telegrams on the same subject, and has the honor to enclose further thereto a copy of an exchange of memoranda between the Counselor of Mission and the Commanding General, USAFK, together with the enclosures thereto.

Enclosure: Copy of memoranda,
as stated

<첨부분서> 제주도의 상황(1949. 3. 10)

SECRET

Enclosure no. 1 to Despatch no. 145 dated March 14, 1949, from American Mission in Korea, Seoul.

To: General Roberts

March 10, 1949

From: Mr. Bramright

Subject: Conditions on Cheju Island

I attach for your information and consideration copies of two papers on the subject of conditions on Cheju Island. One is a transcript of a statement made by two leading inhabitants of Cheju Island. The other is a copy of a letter from the Reverend Austin Sweeney, a Catholic Father, to Father George Carroll.

I think that you will agree from a reading of these two papers that the situation on Cheju Island is pretty serious and that some rather positive action will have to be taken to ameliorate the situation there.

/ss/

Verett E. Bramright
Counselor of Mission

Attachments

<첨부분서> 제주도의 상황(1949. 3. 11)

To: Mr. Bramright

March 11, 1949

From: Commanding General, USAFK

Subject: Conditions on Cheju Island

1. I agree with you that Cheju-do is a headache of major importance to Korea, and the Military Advisory Group is doing all, and more, within its ^{power} to get the Koreans to do something about the situation. I have recently sent a strong letter to the Premier and a copy sent to the President in the U.S., guerrilla and military situation there; I have told the Home Minister of the situation and made several suggestions; I have sent a live wire Lieutenant Colonel there; I have had them set up a Central Intelligence Agency which is working; I have had a new commanding officer and staff transferred there and this group is now operating in an intelligent manner accepting the advice of Lt. Col. Saberer, who appears to be a friend of the new commanding officer. As a result of all the above, the government is stirring,

to my knowledge and to yours.

2. Yesterday, the cruiser and the nose minister went there by plane and they got. remains. Today, I received some reports from that place, and they are very encouraging. The four battalions of the military have moved out of the towns and away from the coast line and they are camping in the hills and operating from there. Each one of these battalions are now equipped with good, workable radio sets which they have not had before. The liaison planes.

just commenced, on March 5, of 50 raiders, five were killed and 21 captured. On March 6, four raiders were killed and 51 captured. On March 7, 35 raiders were encountered by one group, another group of 35 were encountered on the same date, results were 51 enemy killed and 51 captured. Another group was located on March 7, and a coordinated attack was made in which 23 were killed and 50 captured. Another action on March 8, six enemies were killed; another action on March 8, the 3rd battalion captured 37 prisoners. On March 9, a force estimated between 200 and 600 guerrillas were encountered in which the army lost a company Commander, a Platoon leader and 15 enlisted men killed in action; and in which the enemy captured 15 weapons, including two light machine guns. No enemy casualties were reported.

3. At this time, the police are garrisoning the towns along the coast while the army is sweeping in the hills. Just lately, we sent a demolition team down there and they are blowing up all caves which have been constructed by the Japanese.

4. It is necessary for our laymen to picture this poor island of about 300,000 inhabitants all arrested about the same day. These inhabitants have among the 1500, approximately, communists and quite a few sympathizers. And it is hard for the laymen to realize that these communists are not branded, nor do they wear a special uniform. They associate with all townspeople. And unless an informant is found in an organized group bearing arms or cash, the army there, and like the police, are unable to say that "This man is a guerrilla." They change their spots daily.

They change their reports daily

5. After all, this is a problem for the state of Korea. In my capacity of chief of state and as chief of USAFIK, I am still an advisor only. The advisors can talk ourselves blue in the face with good, bad and indifferent advice, but if they do not choose to take it, they will not. We have leaned over backwards to give them the equipment to assist them in getting to the locality rapidly, at least for their leaders. And we are willing to go further.

6. For your information, the battalions which are in the field now are each accompanied by 200 volunteer citizens. They assist them in constructing temporary shelters, assist them as guides and scouts and in many other ways.

7. Also for your information, coordinated night attacks are being planned for next week.

<첨부문서> 번스(Bunce)와 제주도 주민대표와의 회담(1949. 3. 10)

MEMORANDUM

March 10, 1949

To: Mr. Drumright

From: John Nozier

Subject: Meeting between Dr. Bunce and Cheju Island representatives

Mr. On Yong Kook, Cheju Island Assembly member, Mr. Lee Ho Sung, head of Cheju Island Elementary Educational Section, and Mr. Hong Soon Jai, Cheju Island civic leader, conferred with Dr. Arthur C. Bunce and Mr. Robert Kinney regarding economic conditions on Cheju Island. They reported that 20,000 houses (one third of the total) had been burned, 34 school buildings destroyed, and 14 government offices at the myun level have been totally destroyed. The provincial government building in Cheju City has been burned. They reported that 65,000 people are homeless and without food. They estimate that 60,000 bak of rice will be needed to last until May, as Cheju has always been a food deficit area. They also reported that it was impossible to harvest last year's sweet potato crop, which is the main staple raised on the island.

They reported that the refugees on the island are concentrated along the coast, near Cheju City. Of the total population of 300,000 it is estimated that 100,000 (at least one third of whom are refugees) are concentrated in Cheju City.

They estimate that there are 500 armed agitators, plus 15,000 active sympathizers, hidden in the mountains in the interior of the island. Geographic difficulties have prevented the army's cleaning up these guerrilla forces. The gentlemen from Cheju did not know the number of government troops garrisoned on the island but reported that one regiment was assigned there. Another difficulty in actively resisting the guerrillas has been the Korean army policy of staying in the larger towns and acting as garrison troops rather than going out into the mountains and actively attacking the guerrillas.

Among incidental comments they reported that only 105 villages were left intact of the original 400 on the island and that it was extremely difficult to separate Communists from the loyal citizenry, many of whom were being proselyted by the Communists.

Mr. Lee Ho Sung placed a plea for tents to be used as school buildings. He reported that there are no schools for the children and that they are being actively proselyted by the Communists and spread Communist propaganda among the parents.

Dr. Bunce informed the delegation that it was impossible for the Economic Cooperation Administration to provide direct aid to the people of Cheju but that his agency would have to render assistance through the national government. Mr. Kinney informed the group that the Home Minister, Mr. Shin, and the Prime Minister were now in Cheju and that the Home Minister planned to remain there for an indefinite period of time in an effort to obtain order on the island.

/ss/

John A. Nozier

<첨부분서> 오스틴 스위니 신부가 전하는 제주도 상황

(Letter from Father Austin Sweeney, Catholic Missionary, Cheju Island, to Father George Carroll, Catholic Missionary, Seoul)

Che Ju Do
15th February

Dear George,

I hope you had a good holiday in the P. I., or was it merely part of your "hard" work? Many poor and good people here are suffering. If this were a civilized country, there would be a nation-wide "help the Che Ju people" program on hand; the poor folk here are certainly getting it hard. The death-list now tops the 15,000 mark, the number of houses burned down, over 10,000. To hit one village where 721 houses had been destroyed by the raiders, and the people were living like animals, and getting an average of one sweet potato a day. Every town and village around the coast (there are no hill villages left) have their own wall built around them, guarded by soldiers, police and youth organizations, so comparative safety is enjoyed by townsfolk at present. But no travelling about is possible. Even the soldiers, unless they go in proper convoy or at least five well-spaced vehicles, get wiped out. In the last two months, they have lost some 130 men killed, and well over a hundred wounded, nearly all in road ambushes. They lost nearly 200 guns to the raiders at the same time. The raiders also captured three machine guns. Only two Catholics killed so far, although one of our young women stopped seven bullets, 3 m-1's and 4 carbine bullets, and one of the boys took one bullet through the chest, and an m-2 bullet through the ankle. Both are getting well again; took it in their stride. The two USA advisers cannot understand how the girl did not die, as she had to wait over three and a half hours, before they found her. The Ju women are certainly made to take plenty of wear and tear. She has not even lost weight, by her appearance. By the way, if you can steal a "blood plasma" or two, for Catholic casualties, I shall be very thankful. The two men, pumped into the girl.

Please remember Mr. Dawson and me to Mrs. Pettipola and Buffy.

Best wishes to yourself and all the Seoul Maryknollers.

/as/

Austin Sweeney

• 게릴라 토벌 성공적 수행(1949. 3. 28)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE