

eyes of the world. Mr. Muccio then suggested that at an appropriate time the President might want to issue a statement expressing appreciation of the service rendered by the U. S. forces in Korea and suggesting that they might now withdraw.

President Rhee took Mr. Muccio's comment with respect to the projected withdrawal of American troops calmly. He said he realized they could not be kept in Korea indefinitely. He merely hoped that they could be maintained in Korea until the Republic had an adequate force to protect its interests and sufficient arms and munitions to supply its forces.

The conversation then passed on to other subjects.

EPBramright/jcg

주한미군 철수와 주한미군사고문단의 증강(1949. 4. 9)

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH		DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
OFFICE OF INCOMING TELEGRAM FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS		289	
APR 11 1949	TOP SECRET	CORRECTED COPY 4/11/49, 12:30 p.m. CORRECTIONS UNDERSCORED	
DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF STATE		Control 3362	
		Rec'd April 9, 1949 4:38 a.m.	
FROM: Seoul		DIVISION OF NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS	
TO: Secretary of State		Noted APR 11 1949 Holt T. ... DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
NO: 362, April 9, 2 p.m.			
Creation best possible atmosphere for announcing withdrawal USAFIC and augmentation Korean military advisory group progressing favorably.			
Immediately upon my return March 29 I assured Rhee decision had been reached by Government of US to furnish Korean security forces adequate arms, equipment and munitions prior to withdrawal of task force and that legislative authority would be sought to continue such support for immediate future. (See despatch 189, April 1). I conveyed similar assurances to Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister Defense.			
On April 4 I again raised question of withdrawal with Rhee. In course of lengthy discussion I told him			

It was a natural desire of US to withdraw its forces as soon as this could be done without imperiling Korean security and that I felt the training of Korean security forces had made such progress in recent months that withdrawal of American troops might be accomplished in the very near future. Rhee took this calmly, said he realized American troops could not be kept in Korea indefinitely and merely expressed hope they could be maintained until Republic had an adequate force to protect its interests and sufficient arms and ammunitions to supply its force. (Despatch 200, April 5).

Ministry of Defense and Social Affairs now Cheju-do Rhee personally going there Saturday. Upon his return hope to be able to have him include in his statement conditions, schedule and objectives of training of security forces, and confidence that they are now competent to maintain stability and defend country and that he is therefore willing to withdraw American troops upon condition of continued presence American troops in Korea. Rhee will depart in this week and early next week. Surprised at dropping release regarding formal establishment of UNVU meantime.

In discussing UNCOK matters with Principal Secretary on April 17, I inquired whether UNCOK had given any content to December 12 resolution providing that occupational forces will be withdrawn as early as practicable. (My despatch 202, April 5). Upon receipt of CA of March 18 '49 with regard to Korean question, I made contacts between down to Principal Secretary, chairman (Chinese delegate) and French, Philippine and Salvadoran members, suggesting they might want to start talking about this and related questions.

It proposed to send early next week communication to Principal Secretary (Salvadoran) in the form of a paragraph of my program and ask for any comments or views which the Commission might like to make regarding efficiency and adequacy of Korean security forces and timing of withdrawal. (Principal Secretary and French delegate both feel that December 12 resolution required UNCOK only to observe withdrawal and not participate in any decision regarding presence).

UNCOK has taken no action on petition signed by 63 members National Assembly. Principal Secretary has said that at next formal meeting, scheduled next week, it was proposed to set up a sub-committee for the whole to consider this matter which would also be available to consider withdrawal and military observers. At present petition primarily internal political maneuver, embarrass Rhee. It has received little attention here.

• 제주도 소탕작전 상황(1949. 4. 9)