

GOVERNOR had indicated that such had indeed been the case.

The meeting closed with MR. DRUMRIGHT telling the GOVERNOR that he would seek to make arrangements for the latter's flight to Cheju-do next week, suggesting that the GOVERNOR return to this office on Tuesday at which time MR. DRUMRIGHT said he expected he would be able to inform him concerning the projected flight.

John P. Gardiner

• 1949년 5월의 정치상황 요약(1949. 6. 13)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Despatch No. 346

American Embassy

CONFIDENTIAL

Seoul, Korea, June 13, 1949

Subject: Political Summary for May, 1949

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In continuation of Despatch No. 273, May 17, 1949, reporting on political developments in Korea for the month of April, 1949, I have the honor to submit a review of political developments in May, 1949.

I. SUMMARY

May was a difficult month for the Republic of Korea. The strain of impending United States troop withdrawal and of Communist successes in China led to anxious and inept attempts to secure guarantees of assistance against the Communist menace. Despite the efforts of the Philippine Delegate, the United Nations Commission on Korea resolved that it had no responsibilities in the timing or facilitation of troop withdrawal, and aside from that resolution accomplished little else. The

executive branch of the Republic cracked its whip on the local scene, under pressure of international developments and of Communist disturbances at home. The National Assembly, reconvening in special session, gave voice to much criticism of the Executive but was unable to muster unity among its own ranks to implement its criticism. Two clashes of some magnitude along the 38th parallel kept Korea reminded of its geographic and ideological division. The North Korean regime continued its propaganda barrage, taking full advantage of the defection of South Korean Army and Navy units to the north, and offering competition to United Nations efforts at unification in the form of a meaningless "Fatherland Unification Front."

III. Activities of the United Nations Commission

C. Other UNCOK Activities.

From May 8th to 14th, the French and Indian Delegates toured Cheju Island, accompanied by members of the Secretariat. They "were present" at the by-elections there on May 10th, and the French Delegate circumnavigated the island by jeep.¹ The El Salvador Delegate and Principal Secretary visited Kaesong on May 9th, a few days after the fighting there,² and the French Delegate later in the month visited the border town of Yongval-Hi.³ Sub-Committee I toured Seoul industrial plants.⁴

1. Despatch 287, May 23, 1949.
2. See Sec. VI; Embassy telegram 511, May 9, 1949.
3. Despatch 304, May 31, 1949.
4. Embassy telegram 511, May 9, 1949.

VII. KOREAN POLITICS

B. Internal Politics.

KIM Koo's Korea Independence Party was again rumored (without apparent basis in fact) to be drawing closer to the government. On May 19th, President Rhee and KIM Koo met in the flower garden at Duksoo Palace, apparently by pure chance, giving fresh impetus to such speculation. The Tong-A Ilbo published a picture of the meeting, which turned out to be a photomontage.

Elections in freshly-pacified northern districts of Cheju Island resulted in addition of two presumably pro-government members to the National Assembly: HONG Soon Nyung, 63, a National Society member, and Hwang Pyung Chik, 41, Great Korea Youth Corpsman.³ Ex-Foreign Minister CHANG Taek Sang was originally a candidate in Cheju, but withdrew.

3. Embassy airgram A-178, May 21, 1949.

• 제주도 사태에 대한 도지사 견해(1949. 6. 16)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 354

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American Embassy,

Seoul, Korea, June 11, 1949.

~~RESTRICTED~~ DCR

DIVISION OF
NORTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS

Subject: Views of Governor on Affairs in Cheju-do

JUN 24 1949

The Ambassador refers to despatch No. 303 dated May 31, 1949 and has the honor to transmit for the Department's information copies of a memorandum of conversation which is self-explanatory.

The Ambassador believes that the Governor has exaggerated the misbehavior of the Korean Army personnel now stationed in Cheju-do. Otherwise, the Governor's remarks appear to be in line with the facts of the situation.

Enclosure: 

Memorandum of Conversation
No. 63 dated June 11, 1949

JPGardiner:ltg

<첨부분서> 제주도 사태에 대한 도지사의 견해(1949. 6. 14)

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 354 dated June 11, 1949 from the American Embassy, Seoul, Korea

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
No. 63

June 11, 1949

SUBJECT: Views of Governor on Affairs in Cheju-do

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Kim Yoo-ha, Governor of Cheju-do
Mr. H. Kim, Ambassador
Mr. Drummond
Mr.

TIME: 10:00 A.M.
DATE: June 11, 1949
PLACE: American Embassy

(The following is a summary of the conversation held on June 11, 1949, between the Ambassador and the Governor of Cheju-do.)

be possible for him to secure air transportation to Cheju-do on June 15.)

The GOVERNOR opened the conversation by asking if it would be possible for USAFIK to provide him and his wife air transportation to Cheju-do on June 15. I said I would have to discuss this matter with Mr. Drumright, but I would be very glad to do everything in my power to help. I then asked the GOVERNOR how things were going in Cheju-do.

The GOVERNOR said he was making some progress in Cheju-do and that the guerrillas were very much under control—the leader of the Cheju-do Communist guerrillas, Lee Duk Koo, had just been killed. I told the GOVERNOR I was glad to hear that this situation was under control as I had heard remarks to the effect that the Korean Army unit on the island had been easing up on its drives against the guerrillas. I then asked the GOVERNOR if he would tell me what problems in Cheju-do gave him the most trouble. He answered that he had two very serious ones. The Korean Army unit—the Second Regiment, which was stationed in Cheju-do, was acting in a very high handed manner toward the local populace. This was causing considerable discontent and he, the GOVERNOR, was trying to do something about it. I asked if he had discussed the matter with the DEFENSE MINISTER, and he said he had done so just that morning, and that the latter had promised to do what he could to cause the Second Regiment to change its attitude toward the populace. In addition to the Army causing trouble, the Northwest Youth Corps was behaving in a very arbitrary and cruel manner toward the inhabitants of the island. The fact that the Chief of Police was a member of this organization made matters even worse.

I asked the GOVERNOR whether the potato seedlings had arrived in Cheju-do and he assured me that they had and that they were now being planted. When I questioned him as to whether he had received the relief funds for which he had applied to the MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, he replied that so far he had not. THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS had started by provisionally agreeing to allocate to him 70% of the funds which he had requested. Later, however, the MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS had said he could not grant even this amount unless an official of the Planning Bureau were to certify that even the reduced amount was really needed. The GOVERNOR went on to say that an official from the PLANNING BUREAU would go to Cheju-do in the near future for the purpose of confirming the need for the reduced estimate. (At this point MR. DRUMRIGHT entered the conversation).

MR. DRUMRIGHT asked the GOVERNOR whether the refugee population of the island was returning to the uplands. The GOVERNOR said some had returned but that they had only gone a short distance from the villages and had not returned to the hilly regions

in any substantial numbers. MR. DRUMRIGHT said this was unfortunate as it was his belief it was very necessary for the refugee farmers to return to their fields. If this did not happen, the indigenous food supply of Cheju-do might suffer.

(I repeated to MR. DRUMRIGHT what the GOVERNOR had told me about the Second Regiment and the Northwest Youth Corps.) MR. DRUMRIGHT asked the GOVERNOR if he had taken the matter up with the MINISTER OF DEFENSE, and the GOVERNOR said he had. The GOVERNOR went on to say that the present commander of the regiment, COLONEL HUM, was not anywhere near as good a man as the former commander, COLONEL YOO and that he, the GOVERNOR, had hopes of getting COLONEL HUM transferred from the island. The GOVERNOR repeated his request for air transportation, and MR. DRUMRIGHT said I would handle the matter. (Air transportation for the GOVERNOR was finally arranged with USAFIK.)

John P. Gardiner

• 남한의 최종 인구집계(1949. 6. 17)

INCOMING AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

Action Assigned to *NA*

Action *Noted*

Approved: American Embassy,
Seoul, Korea

Date of Filing: June 20, 1949

UNCLASSIFIED

Secretary of State

Name of Officer

Direction to DC/R

At, June 17, 1949

June 23, 1949 10:21 am

Reference is made to dispatch No. 254 dated May 7, 1949 entitled "Transmittal of Instructions on first census of the Government of the Republic of Korea"

The following is a report submitted by OPI covering the final round figures of the recent census taken in Korea south of the 38th parallel:

The grand total

20,184,000