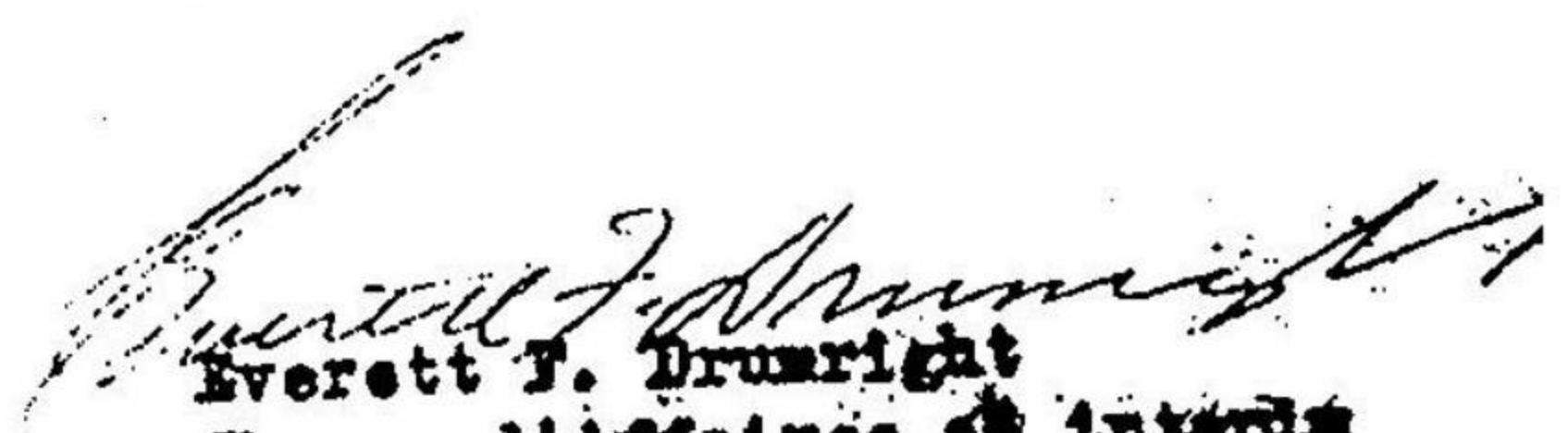


1949 moved to the Taebaek-san region. With the death of Lee, ~~Kim Il-sung~~ be the principal guerrilla chieftan in South Korea.

Areas Devoid of Guerrilla Activity

At present, no guerrilla activity is reported in Kyonggi Province, North and South Chungchong Provinces or on the Island of Cheju. The Hamwon "bulge" is the only affected area in North Cholla Province. The remnants of the "Honam" area (roughly those parts of the North and South Cholla Provinces west of the Somjin River) guerrillas have been pushed into the Chiri-san area and are included in Chiri-san strength figures.

Guerrillas on the Island of Cheju, where no confirmed guerrilla activity has been reported for nine months, seem to have been decimated.


Everett F. Drumright
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▪ 사슈토 섬의 현재 상황 / C-3 (1950. 5. 23)

SECRET

23 May 1950

CURRENT CONDITION IN SAISHUTO ISLAND, (C-3)

The recent condition in the Island is summarized as follows:

1. Damages and Casualties Done by the Revolt and the Recent Economic Condition of the islanders.

Damages and casualties in the Island done by the revolt in October 1948 are disclosed in the following figures made public by the government:

The dead	27,719	persons
The injured	1,044	persons
The sufferers	78,534	persons
Houses totally destroyed by fire	39,285	houses

On 17 April 1950 in Seoul, Mr. KIN, Governor of Saishu Province, revealed the recent condition of the Island as follows:

*Casualties in the Island done by the revolt were more serious than those made public by the government. After the revolt more than 400 villages have reduced to 170 ones. It was officially reported that 27,000 were killed. In fact, however, over 60,000 persons died. The total damage is estimated at scores of billions yen.

The 400,000 population of the Island has reduced, to 300,000. 100,000 of whom are facing starvation.

During the period from May 1949 to the present, over 2,000 persons starved to death. After the harvest in the fall of last year, the condition has, however, been somewhat improved. It is a question how 100,000 starving islanders will tide over the food shortage in the off-crop season. Though

100,000 koku of rice had been annually imported from the mainland, only 7,000 koku were imported in 1949."

In order to establish a relief policy, the South Korean government, after late February, 1950, dispatched an inspection group made up of ministries employees to the spot and is reportedly considering measures to be taken.

2. Account Given by Secret Korean Entrants who Sought their Refugees in Japan.

On 11 May 1950 over 50 secret Korean entrants were drifted ashore at Nakanagaya, Shirosuga town, Shizuoka Prefecture. All of them came from Saishuto Island. In order to escape from the present starvation plight in the revolt-affected Island, they firmly decided to take refuge in Japan by selling all their properties for making travel expenses of ¥ 30,000 - ¥ 35,000 per head. They had nothing but one or two changes of clothes respectively.

They told as follows: From olden times the Island had few tracts of arable land and consequently the Islanders lived by fisheries alone. As they have currently nothing to eat, they are forced to live on starch mixed with fruit and wild grasses.

Most of the houses on hills were destroyed by the communist revolt. A small number of houses remain near the coast. There are neither commodities nor medical facilities. Due to the medicine shortage since the communist invasion, there is no alternative but to die, if the Islanders get ill. Saishuto Island threatened by starvation and civil war is just a living hell.

3. Island as a Base for the Communist Guerrillas in the South Korean Republic.

On 10 May 1948 when the general election was held on the Island, a violent riot broke out. As the communist guerrillas made a strike from the Island, the election officials resigned from their posts.

Such disturbances forced the election on the Island to be held over again. As a result, one of the two regular personnel was elected.

It was reported that Soviet submarines anchored at some ports on the Island, which was the earlier time a strong base for communist guerrillas. They have gradually been so vigorously organized that most organizers smuggling themselves to Japan via Saishuto are dispatched by the communists of the Island.

4. Information on the Political Activities Regarding the Island.

It seems that with the Communists' invasion of Formosa at hand Gen. WU Tieh-sheng visited Korea to ask the South Korean government to lend air-bases to the Nationalists. Though the Korean government denied such fact, he seems to have asked for the permission of establishing air-bases in Jinsen and Saishuto Island.

It is, however, not yet known how the South Korean government replied to his request. Meanwhile, a Japanese who had recently a narrow escape from Saishuto Island said that an air-base is under construction there.

• 제주도(1950. 7. 26)

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