

	Title and Date of Promulgation
150	Amalgamation of Police Stations in Che-ju Province. (Jan 18 49)
151	Rules for Allowing Duties in the Board of Audit. (Jan 18 49)
	Miscellaneous Matters Concerning Education and Public Welfare

• 이승만이 맥아더에게 보내는 사신(私信)(1949. 5. 22)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SEOUL

E OF THE PRESIDENT

May 22, 1949

Dear General MacArthur:

I am writing you this personal letter about the military and security problems confronting us, for I know that you are in the best possible position to evaluate and adjudge their seriousness.

Although we do not wish to show publicly any sign of worry over the whole situation, we cannot help feeling very nervous. The Communists are spreading their propaganda story all through south Korea that the Americans are being forced to withdraw by pressure from Moscow, and that soon the north Korean Communists will sweep down to occupy our south, just as the Chinese Communists are now doing in China. They broadcast over the Piongyang radio, and circulate in leaflets the terms of agreements signed between the north Korean Communist puppet and Moscow for mutual military defense. It is reported that over one hundred Japanese plane manufacturers and aviators have been brought to North Korea, and that a large contingent of the Japanese soldiers held in Manchuria are to be sent to north Korea by the Soviets.

These and many other stories are circulating among our people. One may dismiss them as Communist propaganda lies, but no one can deny or conceal the fact that the northern Communists are constantly coming over the 38th parallel to burn and destroy and kill wherever they can. Their mortar shells are frequently falling into the city of Kaesang and in country villages all along the line, which results in death, destruction and a nerve-wrecking uneasiness among our people. The United States authorities advise us not to worry, saying we shall have all the military aid we need when the situation requires it. In the meantime, my Defense Minister assures me we have munitions enough only to last for three days.

We have done everything we could to clean up completely the island of Cheju and other affected areas. But this cleaning up does not amount to much, for we have no way of preventing the constant infiltration of more Communists along the seacoasts. We need fast-running patrol boats, planes, and some heavier ships to guard our coast line. Without them it is impossible to keep the Communists out, and to stop the smuggling of rice and other commodities. We need planes for reconnaissance as well.

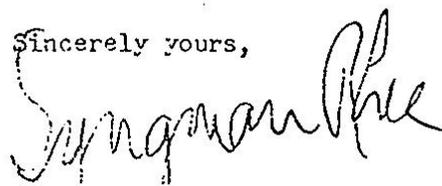
as for support of our troops in repelling attacks.

These are our most urgent needs, and we do not seem to be able to secure them. The urgency of the problem that confronts us does not seem to be fully understood, despite what is happening right now in China. There still seems to be some lingering feeling in some American official circles that it is not the Communists who are aggressors, but that it may be the democratic forces that somehow are guilty of inviting attacks. I think, General MacArthur, that you are close enough to our situation to understand the real danger that confronts us, and the pressing need of securing additional armaments while yet there is time. If the United States does not feel that it can grant us the needed weapons as part of the world-wide democratic alliance against further Communist aggression, we should like to purchase them with our own money. But whatever the means to be used, there should be no disastrous delay. We are fighting for our lives, as well as to hold back the Communist advance upon our friends in the rest of the free world, and we need the necessary weapons to give us a fighting chance for success and to keep up the morale of the democratic camp.

We will try to invite Admiral Kaufman to visit our naval base in Chinhae Bay and an outstanding official of the U.S. Air Corps now retired to come and help build up our air defense. It will be also highly important for us to have an army officer who has deep interest in strengthening our national military force. Please advise and help us in this confidentially. We deem it very urgent.

With every assurance of my continued highest and warmest esteem.

Sincerely yours,



• 유엔한국위원단 공보 제16호(1949. 5. 23)

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 287

American Embassy,

UNCLASSIFIED

Seoul, Korea, May 23, 1949.

Subject: Transmittal of UNCOK Press Release No. 16

The American Embassy refers to its telegram No. 584 dated May 21, 1949 and has the honor to transmit for the Department's information copies of UNCOK press release No. 16 dated May 17, 1949 which is self-explanatory.