

<u>Party</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Members</u>
People's Committee	YU ROW-RI (1010-1320)	SONG, Chol Whe	15
Farmers' Association	"	KIM, Yong Ou	9

c. Press

(1) On 5 January, PAK, Heun Yung, leader of the Korean Communist Party, was interviewed by a group of American and Korean Correspondents. Although nothing sensational appeared in the initial translations (See Translations of Daily Newspapers, USAFIK G-2 Periodic Report #118), a broadcast from the UNITED STATES on 15 January quoted Mr. PAK as advocating a national trusteeship and the possible annexation of KOREA into the Russian sphere within the next 10 to 20 years. Mr. PAK denied making this statement and requested a retractor by the American Correspondent, Mr. Richard J. H. JOHNSTON (See Translations of Daily Newspapers, USAFIK G-2 Periodic Report #128). Mr. PAK subsequently called upon General HODGE to have JOHNSTON expelled from KOREA. A complete investigation has been made, the results of which were announced to the press on 18 February. (See Incl #1.)

(2) For the purpose of showing matters of current public interest in KOREA, translations have been made of the headlines of the leading articles of all major newspapers in SEUL and of the text of the articles considered to be of particular interest. (See Incl #2.)

d. The following report concerning the collection of rice in CHOLLA-NAMDO Province is extracted from the 6th Division G-2 Periodic Report #118, dated February 13:

"The collection of rice in CHOLLA-NAMDO Province is far from satisfactory. The quota of the province is 2,408,700 straw bags of unhulled rice, and at the present time there are 142,932 bags of unhulled rice in the hands of the Korean Commodity Company. In a Conference of the GUN magistrates held by the Military Governor on 3 Feb 46, the 'plan for the procurement of rice' together with Ordinance #45 was discussed. The GUN officials have expressed their unanimous opinion that neither the plan nor the ordinance will work. The chief reasons are: that the methods to be used do not meet with the will of the people, and that the people look with disfavor upon the Korean agents of the Korean Commodity Company whom they feel are not trustworthy. Last August, the Korean Commodity Company purchased 1,000 SUKS of rice at 48 Yen per SUK and then later sold it at 740 Yen without a satisfactory explanation. The method of distribution and the price of consumer goods was criticized by all the magistrates.

" Much rice has been squandered in various ways, such as SAKI and candy making. For example, the city of MOKPO (930-1300), with a population of approximately 90,000, has over 2,000 SAKI shops. There is no doubt that some rice has also been smuggled out of KOREA from the south coast of CHOLLA-NAMDO Province."

e. Pertaining to the smuggling of rice out of KOREA is a report stating that Military Government officials, accompanied by civil police and members of the Korean Commodity Company, recently went to a small port in KWASUN MYUN (994-1279) and another in YONGSAN MYUN (991-1285) to investigate the report of illegal exportation of rice. Four persons were arrested at the former port for attempting to export 145 bags of polished rice, and three men were arrested at the latter port when a search of the boat which they were aboard disclosed between 100 and 200 bags of rice hidden under a large quantity of firewood. Those apprehended are in custody at CHANGHUNG (980-1290).

5. SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE IN ADJACENT AREAS.

A further report of the interrogation of 60 alleged members of the KWANG BOK Army who recently arrived at INCHON from TIENSIN, CHINA (See USAFIK G-2 Periodic Report #153), reveals that only six

MILITARY GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE

18 February 1946

The following information is released clearing up charges against a member of the American Press.

On January 26, Mr. Pak, Heun Young made an official written request to the American Commander over his signature and seal as Secretary of the Communist Party that Mr. Richard J. H. Johnston, correspondent of the New York Times, be expelled from Korea. Several Korean correspondents also signed letters making charges against Mr. Johnston.

Mr. Pak made the specific charge, among others more general, that Mr. Johnston "completely misquoted the leader of the Communist Party" in statements made by Mr. Pak at a press conference on January 5. In view of his interests in truth and accuracy in the press and recent controversies that have arisen concerning these matters, the Commanding General considered these charges to be a very serious matter and had a full investigation made to learn the facts.

The substantiated facts are as follows:

As the official spokesman of the Korean Communist Party, Mr. Pak invited the American Press to attend a press conference on January 5. Three accredited correspondents, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Massock, and Sgt. Cornwall together with the USAFIK Public Relations Officer, Captain Tucker, were officially present at the conference. The portion of the conference for the American press was all in English. Included in questions and answers as shown by notes taken at the time and written in the note books of Captain Tucker and Mr. Johnston with correctness attested by Sgt. Cornwall (Mr. Massock is no longer in Korea, but in conversations with other Americans at that time Mr. Massock indicated that he heard these same questions and answers) are substantially and in sense as follows in so far as referred to in charges by Mr. Pak and the Korean Correspondents.

Question: (by Mr. Johnston) Mr. Pak, what is your attitude or feeling on the subject of a single nation Soviet trusteeship for Korea?

Answer: (by Mr. Pak in English) I do not object to this. We have no objection to a single nation Russian trusteeship.

Question: Mr. Pak, what idea do you have for the political development of your country?

Answer: We hope for ten to twenty years development as a free and independent democracy along socialist, Sovietized lines.

Question: Would this lead ultimately to Sovietization of Korea with the possibility of incorporation of Korea into the Soviet Union at some time in the future?

Answer: Yes, possibly, but this is not possible at this time.

Question: Why not?

Answer: Now, the Korean people would not favor this and also geographically it would not be possible to be included in the Soviet Union at this time.

Those Americans officially present agreed also that most of the remainder of the English portion of the press conference was used by Mr. Pak in a vigorous attack upon General Hodge in connection with the General's alleged suppression of "the true democratic spirit of Korea".

Although Mr. Johnston filed a full account of this press conference

Incl #1 to USAFIK G-2 Periodic Report #156.

Incl #1 to USAFIK G-2 Periodic Report #156. (Cont'd)

it was not published because of being garbled in transmission to New York. It is not known just how Mr. Pak became aware of this private document. Since it is the private and exclusive property of Mr. Johnston and of the New York Times, it cannot be released in Korea. However, during the investigation Mr. Johnston submitted this unpublished article about the press conference for examination and it was found that the quotations questioned by Mr. Pak were as stated herein and attested to by notes and statements of other reliable Americans who were present. A few days after Mr. Pak's press conference, Mr. Johnston wrote another article giving Mr. Pak's denial of his statements made on January 5, which article was published in the New York Times.

In view of the foregoing information, Mr. Johnston stands exonerated of the serious charge of misquoting Mr. Pak, Heun Young in statements made by Mr. Pak on January 5.