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NO. 23

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

~~AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL~~
Office of the Political Advisor
Headquarters, XXIV Corps
Seoul, Korea (APO 235)
March 2, 1946

SECRET

SUBJECT: SOVIET SPONSORED "KOREAN GOVERNMENT" OF NORTH KOREA

DIVISION OF JAPANESE AFFAIRS
MAR 19 1946
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

With reference to my telegram No. 32 of February 23, 1946 and in conformity with the Department's instruction No. 4 of January 25, 1946, concerning biographical notes on Koreans, I have the honor to enclose a list with such biographical data as is available of the Koreans reported to have been appointed to the new "government" established by the Russians in north Korea.

While every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible, it should be emphasized that the information concerning the individuals named on the list was obtained from third parties and from other sources which may not be entirely accurate.

According to intelligence reports from north Korea, the new "government" is set up as follows:

*Chairman - - - - - - - KIM, Il Sawng (Communist)
*Vice-chairman- - - - KIM, Doo Bong (YENAN Independence Alliance)
General Secretary- - KANG, Yang Whang (Communist)
Also reported as KANG, Yang Ook

Directors

Director of General Affairs - CHOI, Chang Ik
(YENAN Independence Alliance)

Director of Justice - CHOI, Yong Dal (Communist
Director of Public Safety - CHOI, Yong Kun
(Democratic Party)
Director of Agriculture - LEE, Soon Keun
and Forestry (Communist)

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Director of Industry - LEE, Moon Whan (Communist)
Director of Education - CHANG, Chong Sik (Communist)
Director of Transportation - HAN, He Jin (non-political member)
Director of Public Health - YUN, Ki Young (non-political member)
Director of Finance - LEE, Pong Soo (Communist)
Director of Communication - CHO, Young Yul (Communist)

Additional Members

*MU, Chung - Communist (general of YENAN Independence Alliance)
*BANG, Woo Yong - YENAN Independence Alliance
HONG, Ki Ju - Communist
KIM, Duk Soo - Representative of WHANGHAI-DO
HYUN, Chang Hyung - Chairman, Labor Union of north Korea
LEE, Ki Young - Director of Education, KANGWON-DO
KANG, Chin Kun - Chairman, Farmers' Association of north Korea
PARK, Chung Ai - Women's League
HONG, Ki Whang - Democratic Party
BANG, Soo Young - People's Youth League
KANG, Young Keun - Labor Union

*Koreans, but from outside of Korea

It is, of course, too early for this "government" to have accomplished anything important of an administrative nature, and it is possible that the Russians will not permit it to perform other than certain pro forma functions, as its chief utility will probably be to offset the strong American administration during the discussions in the forthcoming Joint Commission.

There is also enclosed a translation of two resolutions of the new "government" as published in a north Korean newspaper which is an organ of the Korean Communist party.

Very respectfully yours,

H. MERRELL BENNINGHOFF
Foreign Service Officer
Political Advisor

HMB/rh

Enclosures: No. 1 - List of Members of Soviet-Sponsored "Government" of North Korea
No. 2 - Resolutions of the "Government" of North Korea

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Enclosure No. 2 to Dispatch No. 23 of March 2, 1946 from H. Merrell Benninghoff, Political Adviser to XXIV Corps Headquarters, Seoul, Korea, entitled "Soviet Sponsored 'Korean Government' of North Korea"

RESOLUTIONS OF THE "GOVERNMENT" OF NORTH KOREA

RESOLUTION I:

The creation of the North Korea Interim People's Committee shall be decided at the meeting of the representatives of the People's Committee of all provinces and counties and of anti-Japanese democratic parties and social welfare organizations.

The North Korea Interim People's Committee as a central administrative organ shall be organized to promote the economical, political, and cultural life in North Korea and to improve the leadership of democratic rural administrative organs.

RESOLUTION II:

The resolution, which was passed at the Magnified Council of all the representatives of all the people's committees, democratic political parties, and social welfare organizations concerning the current urgent problems of North Korea, Interim People's Committee and all people's committee of provinces and counties:

Since the Red Army liberated North Korea from the aggressive nation, Japan, all provincial and county peoples committees have restored and guided the people's life in north Korea. Consequently the people in North Korea have marched toward the truly democratic way of life.

North Korea Interim People's Committee was organized as the central administrative organ in North Korea. Therefore, the most powerful policies were determined in order to promote the economical, political and cultural life of the people in North Korea and in order to secure a democratic form of government.

Hereafter, the North Korea Interim People's Committee and all provincial and county people's committees must perform the following duties in order to accelerate the progress of Korean economics, politics and culture:

1. To positively exterminate the pro-Japanese element and anti-democratic elements and to strengthen the administrative organs of all districts by using powerful leaders in all departments.

2. In as short a time as possible, to adjust the lands and forests which were confiscated from the Japanese and pro-Japanese reactionare elements, to put the lands and forests of the big landlords (TN: Korean) under governmental ownership, with suitable measures, to abolish the present tenant system of half and half farming, and to strive for the basic preparations of land ownership, with free distribution of land to the farmers.

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3. To plan and build factories where the daily necessities of the people are produced. (TN: Print is blurred)

4. To completely restore the railroad, water transportation, communications (TN: blurred print) etc.

5. To adjust the monetary facilities such as banks, and to set up suitable policies in trade and commerce.

6. To improve and promote medium and small enterprises, and to encourage men of enterprising and merchants to create new things.

7. To positively assist labor movements, and to set up an organized network of factory committees and work shop committees at mining enterprises and transportation facilities.

8. To improve the people's education system to fit democracy, to reprepare the training of teacher, to expand elementary and secondary schools and to edit text books in the national language.

9. To educate the people in democratic ways in order to exterminate the imperialistic idea given by the Japanese, and to promote cultural movements for the people.

10. To set up suitable policies for critical food problems in north Korea.

11. To lead or guide the people in understanding the real meaning of the decision of Three Foreign Ministers for Korea.

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Enclosure No. 1

MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET-SPONSORED "GOVERNMENT"
OF NORTH KOREA, 12 FEBRUARY 1946

KIM, Il Sawng, Chairman

Age: About 32
Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Education: Reported to have studied in Moscow, -but does not speak good Russian.
Politics: Communist
Marital Status: Married, has two children
Remarks: Is not the famous Manchurian guerilla of the same name, although for political reasons, he has been given a large buildup as a Manchurian guerilla by the Russians, and has been awarded the Stalin medal. It is reported that he has sent his wife and two children away from Pyengyeng and has since married the daughter of Chung Faik, Seoul Communist leader.

KIM, Doo Bong, Vice Chairman

Age: About 62
Location: Pyengyeng, Korea (formerly of Seoul)
Politics: Yenan Independence Alliance
Remarks: Well-known as a literary scholar; aided in preparing grammar texts used in lower schools. Served as a member of Kwang Bok Army (Korean Provisional Govt. Army) in China. In Seoul, it is thought he has espoused Communism as a means of achieving Korean Independence.

KANG, Yang Whang, General Secretary
(Also reported as KANG, Yang Oak)

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Occupation: Teacher
Politics: Communist
Religion: Presbyterian Elder
Remarks: Reported to be a cousin of KIM, Il Sawng and to have taught him. Has only recently become politically familiar in Pyengyeng.

CHOI, Chang Ik, Director of General Affairs

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Politics: Yenan Independence Alliance
Remarks: Is not known in Pyengyeng. Believed to have come from Yenan, China, with KIM, Doo Bong.

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CHOI, Yong Dal, Director of Justice (崔容達)

Age:	About 44
Location:	Pyengyeng, Korea; formerly of Hamheung, Hamkyang Province.
Education:	Graduate of Seoul University
Occupation:	Former teacher of Philosophy, Posung College
Politics:	Communist
Remarks:	Is fairly well known in Korea; at one time was associated with Lyuh, Wun Hyung and the Peoples Republic party. Reported to have been sent to Pyengyeng by Lyuh. Was imprisoned by Japanese in 1943.

CHOI, Yong Kun, Director of Public Safety (崔容根)

Politics:	Communist
Remarks:	Is a protege of KIM, Il Sawng from Russia. Althought he is said to be in the Democratic party, he was installed there by the Communists.

LEE, Soon Keun, Director of Agriculture and Forestry (

Politics:	Communist
Remarks:	Is not known politically

LEE, Moon Whan, Director of Industry (

Age:	About 38
Location:	Pyengyeng, Korea; formerly of Seoul
Occupation:	President of West Korea Electric Co.
Politics:	Communist
Religion:	Christian
Marital status:	Married and has family of 5 children
Remarks:	Formerly worked for Seoul Electric Co. as an engineer. Had good reputation in Seoul, but was not politically active.

CHANG, Chong Sik, Director of Education (

Age:	About 44
Location:	Pyengyeng; formerly of Anchoo, Pyengan province.
Politics:	Communist
Marital Status:	Married; has children
Remarks:	It is reported his appointment as Director of Education was severly criticised in Pyongeng because he lacked educational qualifications. Became politically active following arrival of Russian occupational forces in north Korea.

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HAN, He Jin, Director of Transportation (韓 [illegible])

Location: Pyengyeng; formerly of Hamgkyeng province
Occupation: Was Pyengyeng railroad station-master
Politics: Communist
Remarks: Prior to Russian occupation, was a station-master in Hamgkyeng province; after 16 August, 1945, he was brought to Pyengyeng as station-master.

YUN, Ke Young, Director of Public Health (尹 [illegible])

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Education: Graduate of Medical School, Seoul University
Occupation: Physician
Marital Status: Married, has 5 or 6 children
Remarks: Well regarded in Pyengyeng as a physician. Is not known politically and cannot be identified with any political party.

LEE, Pong Soo (李 [illegible])

Politics: Communist
Remarks: Not known by Pyengyeng people living in Seoul

CHO, Young Yul, Director of Communication

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Occupation: Mailman; labor union organizer
Politics: Communist
Remarks: Formed a labor union among post office workers, while still a common mailman and became affiliated with the Communist Party.

MU, Chung, Committee Member
(also known as CHOI, Mu Chung)

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Politics: Communist
Remarks: Has been with the Korean group in Yenan, China, for several years, and only recently located in Pyengyeng. Reported to have been a military leader of the Yenan Korean Independence Union Army, and to have brought considerable numbers of the Yenan Army group with him to Pyengyeng.

BANG, Woo Young, Committee Member

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Politics: Yenan Independence Alliance
Remarks: Only recently arrived in Pyengyeng from Yenan, China. Is not known politically.

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HONG, Ki Ju, Committee Member (洪基疇)

Age: About 52
Location: Pyengyeng, Korea; formerly of Chinampoo, Pyengan Province.
Education: Graduate of Methodist Seminary, Seoul
Occupation: Methodist minister
Politics: Actually Communist; claims to be Democratic
Remarks: Formerly associated with CHO, Man Sik in north Korea, and later succeeded him as chairman of the Pyengyeng Self-Government Committee. Was installed by the Russians as a member of the Democratic Party in north Korea, although actually a Communist.

KIM, Duk Soo, Committee Member (金德洙)

Politics: Is not known politically; was appointed to the committee as a representative of Hwanghai Do province.

HYUN, Chang Hyung, Committee Member (玄昌衡)

Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Politics: Reported to be Communist
Remarks: Has been active in labor organization and is Chairman, Labor Union of north Korea.

LEE, Ki Young, Committee Member (李基榮)

Location: Kangwon Do Province
Remarks: Is Director of Education for Kangwon Do province. Is not known politically.

KANG, Chin Kun, Committee Member (姜鎭坤)

Remarks: Is Chairman, Farmers Association of north Korea; not known politically.

MRS. PARK, Chung Ai, Committee Member (朴貞愛)

Age: About 42
Residence: Pyengyeng, Korea
Politics: Women's League; is a Communist
Marital Status: Is married; no children
Remarks: Has local reputation as Korean women's leader. Speaks good Russian and is rumored to have been born and educated in Russia and to have come to Pyengyeng about ten years ago. Has closely collaborated with Russian Army since the beginning of the occupation, acting as interpreter and informer. Is the wife of KIM, Yong Bong, a noted Pyengyeng Communist, reported to be an educated factory worker who succeeded Heung, Chun Ho, former Pyengyeng Communist leader, who was assassinated in August, 1945 by an opposition Communist faction of which KIM, Yong Bong was a member.

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HONG, Ki Whang, Committee Member (洪基煌)

Age: About 63
Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Occupation: Educational work
Religion:
Remarks: Well-known Methodist leader
Was formerly secretary of Kwangsang High School in Pyengyeng; came to Seoul at beginning of Russian occupation and returned to Pyengyeng in October. Is well-known as a member of the Democratic party in Pyengyeng and it is believed that his name was included as a Committee member without his consent.

BANG, Soo Young, Committee Member ( )

Politics:
Remarks: People's Youth League
Not known politically.

KANG, Young Keun, Committee Member ( )

Politics:
Remarks: Reportedly Communist
Is a member of the Labor Union of north Korea; otherwise not known.

HAN, Dong Chan, Committee Member ( )

Age: About 58
Location: Pyengyeng, Korea
Education: Graduated from high school and college in Japan.
Occupation: Dentist
Marital status Married; has large family
remarks: Reportedly wealthy, and comes from a wealthy Korean family. Was reputed to be pro-Japanese.

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5. To adjust the monetary facilities such as banks, and to set up suitable policies in trade and commerce.

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11. To lead or guide the people in understanding the real meaning of the decision of Three Foreign Ministers for Korea.

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