

## UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

## TWELFTH INFORMATION REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION\*\*

(Period 5 July - 31 July)

## I. GENERAL

During the four-week period covered by this report, thirteen plenary meetings of the Commission were held on the following dates:

Seventy-sixth	6 July 1948
Seventy-seventh	7 July 1948
Seventy-eighth	8 July 1948
Seventy-ninth	9 July 1948
Eightieth	12 July 1948
Eighty-first	13 July 1948
Eighty-second	14 July 1948
Eighty-third	16 July 1948
Eighty-fourth	17 July 1948
Eighty-fifth	20 July 1948
Eighty-sixth	21 July 1948
Eighty-seventh	23 July 1948
Eighty-eighth	27 July 1948

In accordance with the decision of the Commission at its twenty-sixth meeting, the representative of El Salvador served as Chairman during the period 30 June - 14 July 1948 inclusive; the representative of France served as Chairman during the period 15 - 29 July 1948 inclusive; the representative of India succeeded to the chairmanship on 30 July 1948 for a period of fifteen days.

The alternate representative of France, Mr. Olivier Manet, left Seoul on 21 July 1948.

The main Committee held five meetings, on the following dates:

Fourteenth	15 July 1948
Fifteenth	19 July 1948
Sixteenth	20 July 1948
Seventeenth	21 July 1948
Eighteenth	27 July 1948

\* Document A/AC.19/88.

\*\* For the Eleventh Report see document A/595.

## II. PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

### Completion of the first part of the report to the General Assembly (seventy-seventh to eighty-sixth meetings inclusive)

Having completed its first reading of chapter VI at its seventy-seventh meeting, the Commission began the second reading of this chapter at its seventy-eighth meeting. The seventy-ninth, eightieth, eighty-first and eighty-second meetings were devoted to this work. Final consideration of chapter VI took place at the eighty-fourth, eighty-fifth and eighty-sixth meetings and it was unanimously adopted.

At its eighty-third meeting, the Commission considered the draft introduction to the first part of the report to the General Assembly and decided to refer it to the Drafting Sub-Committee. The revised draft of the introduction was unanimously adopted at the eighty-sixth meeting. Copies of chapter VI and the introduction to the first part of the report were duly transmitted to the Secretary-General by letter dated 21 July 1948, signed by the Chairman and the Rapporteur.

### Preparation of the second part of the report to the General Assembly (seventy-sixth, eighty-seventh and eighty-eighth meetings)

At its seventy-sixth meeting, the Commission discussed again the problems of preparing the second part of the report. It was generally agreed to have a chapter dealing with the activities of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies from 25 May to some time in August. As to the other chapters of the second part of the report, the general opinion was that it would be better to defer the discussion to a later date.

At its eighty-eighth meeting, the Commission considered the draft of chapter I prepared by the Secretariat and decided to refer it to the Rapporteur for further revisions.

Some delegations expressed the opinion that, since chapter I of the second part of the report dealt only with the history of the Commission's work in chronological order, it might not be advisable to forward this chapter to Lake Success before 15 August, unless it were followed by a more substantial chapter II.

### Discussion on the invitations to attend the ceremonies for signing the Constitution and inaugurating the President and Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Korea (eighty-third and eighty-seventh meetings)

The Chairman of the Temporary Liaison Committee informed the Chairman of the Commission of the ceremony to be held in connexion with the signing of the Constitution\* on 17 July. The Commission, at its eighty-third

\* For the official translation of the Draft Constitution, see document A/AC.19/W.55 (not reproduced in New York). The official translation of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Korea promulgated on 17 July 1948 is not yet available.

meeting, decided that it should not be present on such an occasion and that each member should be left free to attend it individually.

The invitation to attend the ceremony of inauguration of the President\* and Vice-President of the Korean Republic\*\* was brought to the attention of the members of the Commission, as individuals, at its eighty-seventh meeting. The Philippine representative hoped that the Commission would attend the ceremony as a body. He made it clear that in any case he would be present on that occasion as representative of the Philippines. As no other opinions were expressed the Chairman stated that he would attend the meeting in his capacity of Chairman of the Commission and that he would like to have all his colleagues accompany him. Subsequently, on 24 July 1948, all members of the Commission attended the inauguration ceremony.

### III. MAIN COMMITTEE

#### Consultation with the elected representatives (fourteenth to eighteenth meetings inclusive)

At its fourteenth meeting the Committee considered a letter from the Chairman of the Temporary Liaison Committee, Korean National Assembly, dated 12 July\*\*\*, in which the Commission was requested: (1) to forward to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for transmission to North Korea through the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics a resolution\*\*\*\* of the said Assembly appealing to the Koreans in the north to send duly elected representatives to the Assembly, and (2) to consult with the Temporary Liaison Committee regarding other ways and means for furthering the unification of Korea. It was decided: (1) to acknowledge receipt of the letter of 12 July indicating the impracticability of transmitting the Assembly resolution to North Korea through the Secretary-General; (2) to transmit this resolution to Lake Success merely

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\* For the text of the inaugural address, see Annex 1.

\*\* On 20 July 1948, the Korean National Assembly elected the President and Vice-President of the Korean Republic. See Annex 2.

\*\*\* Annex 3.

\*\*\*\* Annex 3.

for information purposes; (3) to invite the members of the Temporary Liaison Committee for consultation on 19 July 1948. With regard to the question of an eventual delegation of the Korean National Assembly to the third session of the General Assembly, the Main Committee agreed that the Temporary Commission was not entitled to give any opinion on the matter.

At its fifteenth meeting, the Committee entered into consultation with the members of the Temporary Liaison Committee of the Korean National Assembly. Views were exchanged regarding the attitude of the Commission towards such questions as the constituting of the Korean National Assembly by the elected representatives and the responsibility in the formation of a government and the misinterpretation of the Commission's stand by the Korean press\*. The Chairman of the Temporary Liaison Committee assured the Main Committee that no misunderstanding existed between these two bodies and that he would report to the Korean National Assembly on the meeting in general terms.

At its sixteenth meeting, the Main Committee took note of the report on consultations by the Chairman of the Temporary Liaison Committee before the Korean National Assembly. The Committee decided to leave it to the discretion of the Chairman and the Principal Secretary to take such steps as they deemed advisable to clarify the Commission's position. Subsequently, on 21 July 1948, the Chairman held a press conference and released the contents of his letter of 16 July 1948 to the Chairman of the Temporary Liaison Committee\*\*.

At its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings, the Committee discussed its Chairman's report on his press conference and the press treatment of his statement to the foreign correspondents.

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\* Annex 4.

\*\* Annex 3.

ANNEX 1\*

ADDRESS\*\* DELIVERED BY MR. RHEE SYNGMAN AT THE CEREMONY OF INAUGURATION  
OF THE FIRST PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA 24 JULY 1948 AT 10.00 A.M. AT  
THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

(Translation)

24 July 1948

Honoured by the nation to be its first President, I now stand here deeply moved with feelings of gratitude on one hand and on the other with anxieties of heavy responsibilities that are to rest with me.

It has been often said that when joy reaches beyond the limit, laughs turn into tears. Now I experience the truth of the saying. Men and women who come to congratulate turn away their heads to hide their tears. Congratulatory telegrams from various parts of the country express the same emotions. Self-trained as I am not to be carried away by feelings, nor to show them in public, I myself cannot help being shaken to the core with emotions, being only human, after all, for the independence we lost forty years ago is found again; the nation known to be dead and buried has come to life anew. On this solemn occasion, I vow before my God and my fellow countrymen to carry out my responsibilities to the limit of my ability and strength. You, too, I ask, dear fellow countrymen, to vow in your secret hearts to put the national interest before your own and thus perform your glorious and sacred duties as citizens of Korea. The responsibilities you delegate to me cannot be carried out successfully by any one man. I dare undertake them not on the strength of my own ability but in the sole trust that the concerted efforts of my patriotic countrymen will enable me to discharge them.

It was the solidarity of the people that made the election a complete success, to the marvel of our friendly neighbours. The consequent national legislature is truly democratic in character, including several parties of different shades, even a few leftists. Experience disposed some to expect that it would not work, torn by violent dissensions. True, there were heated debates. But once the Constitution and the Government Organization Law were enacted by the majority vote, feelings subsided, leaving no ill-will behind. This is how the momentous decisions were made in the shortest possible time. The devotion shown by the representatives and the expert commissioners is truly worthy of all praise.

\* Document A/AC.19/W.52/Add.1.

\*\* Circulated by the Secretariat in Seoul to the members of the Temporary Commission for information only.

/Naturally

Naturally I am unable because of this inauguration to retain the chairmanship of the National Legislature. But the vacancy will be filled when the other seats probably made vacant through their present occupants accepting positions in the cabinet, or other positions, are filled by by-elections. Meantime the Vice-chairmen will do the presiding as they have often done for me in the past, for which I thank them.

Rumours are rife as to who will be the Prime Minister, who the cabinet members. You need not pay much heed to them. When everything is made known, they will prove mere surmises, quite beside the mark.

Two considerations are preponderant in organizing the Government: in the first place, to make it an efficiently working organization and, in the second place, to make it stand on a firm foundation, not easily shaken. Therefore, regardless of party affiliations or personal relations, men best able and best suited to administer the enacted laws in accordance with the wishes of the people will be chosen for governmental positions. A man may be either too big or too little for a place. But a truly great man is able not only to cover a big thing but also a small one and, above all, not to be ashamed of doing a small thing well. With such true great souls coming forward to fill a place with a will, whether it be high or low, the attainment of our ultimate objects will be made possible. Such men of genuine character alone will make the Government work like a clock, achieving wonders within and enhancing confidence in us abroad. This Government will thus be representative of the whole nation, not limited to one locality. As often emphasized in the past, the nation will be endangered, if the administrative power is monopolized by one party or one group of politicians. Every citizen must do his part well, loving and guarding the Government he helps to set up. Failing this, we shall have to suffer again aliens to take over what is our due. Our bitter experiences in the past forty years are enough to drive this truth home.

Good citizens must be protected, and bad ones curbed. Selfishness must make room for justice. Formerly the State used to decline through the monarch's upholding the unworthy and estranging the wise. But in these times, when it is the people that elect their own officers, it is up to them to exercise judgment to distinguish between the good and bad, between the competent and incompetent.

As regards our recognition, since it lies with our neighbours, not ourselves, nothing definite can be said now except that, if we keep going on as we have so far done, their goodwill will eventually lead to that. The great task before us is rather to lay the national foundation firm and strong, without troubling about how we shall be received by the world. If we acquit ourselves well and rise to their expectations, they will of

/themselves

themselves recognize and assist us without our asking. So everything depends upon ourselves.

At the United Nations General Assembly to be held at Paris in coming September, we shall be represented by a delegation composed of men of diplomatic ability. Though it is yet too early to give out their names, the question is almost settled who they shall be. In this connection, a word of thanks is due to Miss Louisa Yin, who worked for us so hard at Lake Success, despite the fact that we were not able to support her financially, or even to correspond with her to any sufficient extent. Her services will be long remembered.

A word for the communists among our northern brethren in the Soviet Zone. Those who want to sell their country to a foreign power in the name of communism, undoing their own nation, cannot but be condemned as traitors by the whole people. I earnestly appeal to them to stop their traitorous activities and come back to the unified national fold, ready to conform to the form of government the people will decide in the democratic way, whatever shape it may take. We are not so much against communism as against the treason of its devotees. Let me once more urge them to come back repenting their past ill conduct and peacefully unite the bisected country into one so that they, too, may share the blessings therefrom. If they should persist, however, in their mistaken path, their doom is unavoidable both before man and God.

In international relations we will uphold peace, parity, amity, free commerce on principles of equality and co-prosperity. If there be any differentiation of attitude on our part, it will be because it was forced upon us. To a friendly neighbour, we will requite its friendliness with our own. But from an unfriendly one, we shall be compelled to hold ourselves aloof.

For the past forty years we simply did not exist in the eyes of the world. The world judged us by what others said about us, not by anything we did. But now when we are being helped to our feet by our well-meaning neighbours, we can have our own say, and show them what we are doing. We should like to ask our neighbours, from now on, to weigh us not by what they hear about us but by what they see we are doing.

To make much of the impression we make on the outside world, to make actual facts known as they exist here to all the peace-loving free individuals abroad is not for pushing our own interests alone, but also as a means of safeguarding world peace.

To build up a new nation, a new constitution, a new Government is, of course, necessary, but what is far more needed is a new people. We cannot

make a holy State out of a corrupt people. With a rejuvenated national spirit blasting away all the old corrupt practices, we can possibly make up for the lost forty years, catching up with the times. My beloved thirty million brethren, let us all strive to be worthy members of the new rising nation whose foundation should be on the rock of ages never to be washed away by the torrent of world events.



ANNEX 2\*

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT BY THE KOREAN  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY LIAISON COMMITTEE,  
KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

The following communication has been received from the Chairman of the  
Temporary Liaison Committee and is circulated herewith for information  
purposes only:

Seoul, 21 July 1948.

I have the honour to notify you, as a matter of information, that  
the Korean National Assembly, at its 33rd session on 20 July 1948, held  
an election for President and Vice-President in accordance with Article 53  
of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea.

On the first ballot for President 195 votes were cast, and the  
results were as follows:

Dr. Syngman Rhee	180
Mr. Kim Koo	13
Mr. Ahn Chae Hong	2
Void	1

Accordingly Dr. Syngman Rhee was elected by an overwhelming majority  
vote.

In the voting for Vice-President 197 votes were cast, and the results  
were as follows:

	<u>First ballot</u>	<u>Second Ballot</u>
Mr. Lee Shi Yung	113	133
Mr. Kim Koo	65	62
Mr. Cho Man Shik	10	
Mr. Chang Taik Sang	3	
Mr. Oh Sei Chang	5	
Mr. Suh Sang Il	1	
Mr. Lee Koo Sob		1
Void		1

Accordingly Mr. Lee Shi Yung was elected Vice-President by a  
two-thirds majority vote.

(Signed) CHANG MYUN, Chairman  
Temporary Liaison Committee,  
Korean National Assembly.

ANNEX 2

RESOLUTION OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING NORTH KOREA

A.\*

LETTER FROM THE TEMPORARY LIAISON COMMITTEE,  
KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE  
OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

Seoul, 12 July 1948

I have the honour to call your attention once again to the urgent desire of the members of the Korean National Assembly for unity of Korea, and to request your assistance to attain that objective.

In the Korean National Assembly, as well as throughout Korea, there is great anxiety that elections shall be held north of the 38th parallel at the earliest possible date, in a free atmosphere, under United Nations supervision, so that freely elected representatives may join in the deliberations of our National Assembly and in the activities of our forthcoming Government. We hold open some one hundred seats for our brethren in North Korea who have been unable to hold elections.

On 12 June by unanimous vote, the National Assembly passed a resolution appealing to our fellow countrymen in North Korea to join us. A copy of this resolution\*\* is attached for your information. By publication in the press and by repeated radio broadcasts of the text, we have endeavoured to acquaint our fellow countrymen in North Korea with our longings and our hopes. In addition, a member of the Liaison Committee, Mr. Yun Chi Yung, personally read the text of the resolution over the radio in a broadcast to North Korea, acting officially as a member of the National Assembly.

To this date, however, we have received no response. We do not possess any other means of communication ourselves. We have explored other possible avenues but find none feasible. Since the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea also is deeply concerned over the question of our national unity, we wish to consult with you as to the best means not only of transmitting our resolution to the North, but of achieving our objective of a united Korea.

\* A/AC.19/W.53/Add.1

\*\* The text of this resolution was submitted to the Chairman of the Commission on 14 June 1948. For the text, see B.

/We respectfully

We respectfully request that you transmit our resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with your memorandum asking that he communicate our appeal to the people residing in the northern part of our country through the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, whose troops are in occupation.

We would like to consult with you on behalf of the Korean National Assembly as to additional means to further our objective of national unification.

(Signed) CHANG MYUN,  
Chairman, Temporary Liaison Committee,  
Korean National Assembly.

B.\*

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ON 12 JUNE 1948

TO OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN IN NORTH KOREA

Our independence movement conducted since 1919 finally resulted in international promises of independence at Cairo and Potsdam, thanks to the blood of our martyrs and the spirit of our patriots.

The task of the United States-Soviet Joint Commission which was organized by the Moscow Agreement, however, incompatible with the will of the thirty million Korean people and (therefore the commissions) finally broke up.

International justice expressed by the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 November 1947, brought the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea into Korea, and the 10 May General Elections were held in a free atmosphere in that area where it was possible, according to the resolution of the United Nations "Little Assembly" on 17 February 1948.

We, the members elected by the free will of the nation, held a solemn opening ceremony of the National Assembly before the (eyes of the) world, and we are proceeding to the great task of establishing a complete sovereign government. We deeply regret that our fellow countrymen in North Korea did not have the opportunity to hold a general election like we did, because the Soviet Union boycotted the United Nations resolution.

Hereby we, all the members of the National Assembly, resolve to express our sincerest wishes to our fellow countrymen in North Korea:

We hope you, our fellow countrymen in North Korea, will hold a general election soon in a free atmosphere, in accordance with the United Nations resolution as we did, and elect the true representatives of the people, sending them to the National Assembly (to sit with us).

C.\*

REPLY FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION  
ON KOREA TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE  
TEMPORARY LIAISON COMMITTEE, KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Seoul, 16 July 1948

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12 July, enclosing copy of a resolution adopted on 12 June by your Assembly.

The United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea notes with special interest the repeated assurances given in this communication concerning the earnest desire of the representatives elected on 10 May to further the national unification of Korea.

The Commission welcomes your suggestion for consultations and has instructed me to invite the Temporary Liaison Committee to appear before the Main Committee of our Commission, at the Duk Soo Palace, on Monday 19 July, at 10.30 a.m.

Meanwhile your communication will be transmitted to the United Nations, Lake Success, for information purposes.

As to the procedure you suggest to acquaint the people in the northern part of Korea with the resolution of 12 June, we cannot but make reservations as to its practicability. Moreover, our Commission wishes to remind you of the fact that the proper channel for all official communications remains, as in the past, the respective military authorities of occupation.

(Signed) JEAN PAUL-BONCOUR  
Chairman.

\* Document A/AC.19/W.53/Ad3.2

ANNEX 4

CONSULTATION WITH THE TEMPORARY LIAISON COMMITTEE, KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY LIAISON COMMITTEE TO THE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

Seoul, 20 July 1948

I have the honour to express heartfelt gratitude for the kindness which you have extended to our Committee by inviting us for a formal consultation with your Commission yesterday.

With reference to Dr. Rhee's speech, I am enclosing herein an English translation of the part in question together with a copy of Kyung Hyang Daily, in which an article is published by the Propaganda Section of the Association for the Rapid Realization of Korean Independence rectifying some erroneous reports.

I wish again to call your attention to the fact that the Korean National Assembly has not and could not have any responsibility for newspaper or news agency reports or interpretation whether Korean or foreign.

I hope this will clarify all the doubts and misunderstandings that might have existed due to the erroneous reports made by some papers.

(signed) CHANG MYUN

Chairman,

Temporary Liaison Committee  
Korean National Assembly

APPENDIX

(Translation)

"Some people say that 'Dr. Rhee plans to start a fight when he establishes a government in South Korea' but we have no intention of fighting against Soviet Russia. We are to combat against communism (being practiced in North Korea) since we, as living human beings, cannot remain indifferent when we are deprived of our parents, wives and children."

APPENDIX 2

(Translation)

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE PROPAGANDA SECTION, NARRKI, AS PUBLISHED  
IN THE 16 JULY ISSUE OF THE KYUNG HYANG SHIN MOON

The Propaganda Section, NARRKI, issued the following statement on  
15 July 1948:

"As for the part of the speech of Dr. Rhee Syngman, Chairman  
of NARRKI, given at the plenary conference of the National Congress  
on 7 July, in which he allegedly advocated fighting against the  
Soviet Union, the following are the correct passages as recorded  
in the proceedings of the conference:

"There are some who slanderously say that Dr. Rhee is  
planning to prepare for war by establishing a government in  
South Korea. However, it is not against the Soviet Union  
that we shall fight but against communism as prevailing in  
North Korea. For we cannot stand aside and sit still, some  
people being deprived of parents and children."

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