

## UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

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

(Period 2 - 15 May 1948)

## I. GENERAL

1. During the two-week period covered by this report, five plenary meetings of the Commission were held on the following dates:

Thirty-seventh - 5 May 1948

Thirty-eighth - 6 May 1948

Thirty-ninth - 12 May 1948

Fortieth - 13 May 1948

Forty-first - 14 May 1948

2. In accordance with the decision of the Commission at its twenty-sixth meeting, the representative of Syria served as Chairman during the period 1 - 15 May inclusive.

3. The Main Committee held five meetings, on the following dates:

Sixth - 3 May 1948

Seventh - 13 May 1948

Eighth - 13 May 1948

Ninth - 14 May 1948

Tenth - 14 May 1948

4. During the period 7 - 11 May 1948, nine observation groups, composed of representatives and members of the Secretariat visited all the provinces, and the city of Seoul, in South Korea for the purpose of observing the situation in the country with regard to the election programme.

5. At the thirty-ninth meeting of the Commission, the representative of El Salvador announced that the alternate representative, Mr. H. Lindo, would depart for El Salvador on 14 May 1948.

\* First issued at Seoul as document A/AC.19/73.

\*\* For the last report see document A/561.

## II. PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Consideration of the time and place where the first part of the report to the General Assembly is to be prepared. (Thirty-seventh, thirty-ninth and fortieth meetings)

6. At the thirty-seventh meeting, on 5 May 1948, the Principal Secretary submitted a verbal report on the action taken by the Secretariat with respect to the implementation of the resolution of the Commission concerning the preparation in Tokyo, Japan, of the first part of the report to the General Assembly.\*

7. At the thirty-ninth meeting, on 12 May 1948, the Commission considered the exchange of communications which finally resulted in a decision by General MacArthur to the effect that he considered that it would be impracticable for the Commission to come to Japan.

8. Following a discussion of the question, the Commission adopted, with minor amendments, by a vote of seven to none, with one abstention, a resolution proposed jointly by the representatives of El Salvador and the Philippines, stating that the Commission would proceed from Seoul to Shanghai not later than 18 May 1948, for the purpose of preparing the first part of its report, and would return to Seoul during the first week in June. The resolution further restated the concluding paragraph of the previous resolution adopted at the thirty-sixth meeting\* to the effect that a liaison group of its representatives would remain in Seoul during the period of the Commission's absence, for the purpose of receiving all necessary information (see paragraph 12).

9. At its fortieth meeting, on 13 May 1948, the Commission considered a message from General MacArthur to General Hodge, dated 13 May 1948, which was transmitted by the United States Liaison Officer to the Commission, and which read as follows:

"INFORM UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA THAT IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY ATTRIBUTED TO THE MATTER ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO PROVIDE IT WITH OFFICES IN TOKYO WHILE PREPARING ITS REPORT ON THE KOREAN ELECTIONS. THE CLEARANCE OF ITS INDIVIDUAL PERSONNEL WAS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED - MACARTHUR"

10. The Commission decided to authorize the Principal Secretary to acknowledge receipt of the memorandum transmitting a copy of the message from General MacArthur to General Hodge, and to inform the United States Liaison Officer that, after having received the report

\* Document A/561, Annex 3.

of the Administrative Officer of the Commission to the effect that no accommodations in Tokyo were available, preliminary arrangements had been made by the Commission and the Secretariat for accommodations in Shanghai.

11. On 14 May 1948, the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed the Principal Secretary by cable as follows:

"STATE DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED INVITATION COMMISSION COME TOKYO FULL FACILITIES ASSURED HOWEVER WE DECLINED SINCE SHANGHAI PLANS FAR ADVANCED. ADVISE YOU CONSIDER TOKYO INCIDENT CLOSED - TRYGVE LIE"

Consideration of composition of liaison group in Seoul during the absence of the Commission (thirty-seventh meeting).

12. At the request of the Chairman, the Chinese and French delegations agreed to provide one representative each to form the liaison group in Seoul. The Commission approved the composition of the liaison group. Discussion of the drafts of chapters I and II of the first part of the report of the Commission to the General Assembly (thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings)

13. Chapters I and II were examined paragraph by paragraph and adopted with modifications at the first reading.

Discussion of Press Release No. 59 (forty-first meeting)

14. Following a brief discussion, the Commission decided to approve the press release recommended by the Main Committee at its ninth meeting (see paragraph 24).

### III. MAIN COMMITTEE

15. The following principal items of business were discussed during the sixth to tenth meetings inclusive:

Organization and travel itinerary of observation groups for period 7 - 11 May 1948 (sixth meeting)

16. The Committee approved, with minor changes, the organization and travel itinerary of observation groups during the election period 7 - 11 May 1948.

17. It was agreed to leave it to the discretion of the individual groups to determine whether a delay of one day might be necessary in order to complete their work.

Interviews with the Main Committee (sixth and seventh meetings)

18. At the sixth meeting, on 3 May 1948, a discussion took place regarding the possibility of obtaining the views of leading personalities in South Korea who had attended the Korean political leaders' conference at Pyongyang, North Korea. It was decided that Mr. Kim Koo, Mr. Kim Ki-sic, /and Mr. Lyuh Woon Hong

and Mr. Lyuh Woon Hong should be invited to appear before the Main Committee between 12 and 14 May.

19. At the seventh meeting, on 13 May 1948, the Committee decided that it would also interview political personalities who had favoured participation in the election held on 10 May 1948, in order to obtain their views concerning the Pyongyang conference.

Complaints received by the Main Committee (sixth meeting)

20. The Committee decided, following a short discussion, that the Secretariat should obtain all information and report to the Main Committee concerning the possible statement by an American authority regarding suppression of news on the Korean political leaders' conference in North Korea, and on the arrest and trial of three newspaper editors. (Annex 1).

Interviews with representatives in South Korea concerning the Korean political leaders' conference held at Pyongyang, North Korea (seventh and eighth meetings)

21. In accordance with its decision at the sixth meeting, the Committee heard Mr. Kim Koo, Mr. Kim Ki-sic, and Mr. Lyuh Woon Hong, for the purpose of obtaining their views on the Pyongyang conference.

Discussion of Press Release No. 59 (ninth meeting)

22. A discussion took place concerning the public release of a statement by the representative of Syria, who was serving at the time as Chairman of the Commission, on the subject of the elections (Press Release No. 59).\*

23. Certain members considered that the press statement reflected the views of the representative of Syria only and not necessarily those of the Commission.

24. It was finally decided to recommend to the Commission the issuance of a press release as follows:

"After an exchange of views among the members of the Commission concerning Press Release No. 59, Mr. Mughir, representative of Syria, now Chairman of the Commission, declared that it was never his intention to commit the Commission in any manner and that he made it clear to the press that he was only expressing his own views."

Complaints received concerning the cancellation of registration of the candidacy of Mr. Choi Neung Chin in electoral district Tongdaemun A, Seoul City (ninth meeting)

25. Following a brief summary by the Chairman of the case of the rejection of Mr. Choi's candidacy by the National Election Committee,

\* Not published.

the Main Committee decided that its Secretary should request the military authorities to re-examine the case and to inform it as soon as possible of the results of their findings. (Annex 2)

Reply by the United States authorities to complaints submitted concerning the free atmosphere for elections (ninth meeting)

26. In accordance with its decision at the fifth meeting,\* the Committee reviewed the replies received from the United States Liaison Officer to certain complaints concerning the elections which were submitted to the Commission and transmitted to the United States military authorities. (Annex 3).

Interviews with Korean political personalities (tenth meeting)

27. In accordance with its decision at the seventh meeting, the Committee heard Mr. Rhee Syngman and Mr. Kim Sung Soo, in order to obtain their views on the Pyongyang conference.

#### IV. OBSERVATION GROUPS\*\*

28. During the period 7 - 11 May 1948, nine observation groups, composed of representatives and members of the Secretariat, visited all the provinces, and the city of Seoul, in South Korea for the purpose of observing the situation throughout the country on Election Day, 10 May, as well as the election programme immediately prior to and following 10 May.

29. Emphasis was placed on observing election procedures, the physical arrangement of polling places, the casting of ballots, the counting of ballots, and the general atmosphere surrounding the election.

\* Document A/561, paragraph 14.

\*\* The records of the observation groups will be issued later as annexes to the final report of the Commission to the General Assembly.

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ANNEX 1

INCIDENTS CONCERNING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS DURING THE ELECTIONS

A\*

EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICER  
TO THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

4 May 1948

I.. Memorandum to the United States Liaison Officer to the Commission.  
From: I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee.

At its sixth meeting on 3 May 1948, the Main Committee took note of the following two incidents:

1. According to information received by the Principal Secretary, the following directors and editors of Seoul newspapers were arrested on 27 April, apparently on the grounds that these newspapers published information concerning the Pyongyang conference and voiced opposition to the formation of a "separate government" in South Korea:

Chosen Choong Ang Ilbo

Mr. ON RAK CHOONG, Director of the re-editing section and Mr. YOON DONG MYUNG, Director of the political and economic section, were arrested at 3:00 p.m. on 27 April at their office.  
Dok Lip Sin Mun (The Independent News)

Mr. KHO KYUNG HUM, Chief Editor, and Mr. PAI UON SOO, editorial manager, were arrested between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. on 27 April.

Sin Mun Ilbo

Mr. KIM SUNG SOO, Vice-President, Mr. NAM CHUNG CHOON, Deputy Manager of the Editorial Bureau, Mr. PAK CHUNG HYUN, Vice-Director of the Managing Section and Mr. LEE KUI CHUNG, attendant, were arrested at 6:00 p.m. on 27 April. On 28 April they edited their paper under the observation of a policeman.

It is also reported that the above persons, and possibly others connected with the three newspapers, have been sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour and a heavy fine.

2. A report has been received that at a dinner attended recently by a number of Seoul newspaper editors, a statement was made by a United States official to the effect that editors should restrict publication of information dealing with the Pyongyang conference.



The Main Committee would appreciate further information or observations concerning these reported incidents.

5 May 1948

II. Memorandum to: Mr. I.F.G. Milner,  
Secretary, Main Committee

From: Brigadier General John Weckerling, United States Liaison  
Officer to the Commission

In reply to your memorandum of 4 May 1948, subject: "Incidents affecting freedom of the press", I give below very briefly the facts in this case:

1. The three newspapers in question, namely, the Chosen Choong Ang Ilbo, Dok Lip Sin Mun, and Sin Mun Ilbo for the past few months have been publishing editorially articles of an inflammatory nature tending to incite riot and civil disorder. On 26 April the three papers reached the height of this obviously inspired campaign and published the enclosed editorial\* which, in the opinion of the American authorities, was of a nature inciting to, if not actually, create active civil disorder. The editors and publishers of the three newspapers were arrested on 27 April and tried by a United States Provost Court for violation of Proclamation No. 2, the specific charge being "inciting to riot and civil disorder." They were sentenced to five years at hard labour and a heavy fine, both of which, however, were subsequently suspended. There are no grounds for the report that the editors were arrested because these newspapers published information concerning the Pyongyang conference and voiced opposition to the formation of a "separate government" in South Korea. Available information on these subjects continues to appear in the press.
2. With regard to the report that a statement was made by a United States official at a dinner attended recently by a number of Seoul newspapermen, suggesting restriction of publication of information dealing with the Pyongyang conference, the only two Americans who attended that dinner, Mr. W. W. Garner and Mr. James L. Stewart of the Office of Civil Information, have been interviewed. Mr. Stewart was the only American who spoke at that dinner and he emphatically denies the allegation. In fact, he said that the Pyongyang conference was not even mentioned. If you wish anything further done in this case, I would suggest that a meeting be arranged between Mr. Stewart and the source of your information.

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\* See Appendix

APPENDIX

DOK LIP SHINGO (L)\*

Cheju Do becomes sea of blood. If American troops move in it will become international issue.

The riot started by people in Cheju Do in opposition to the separate election and for withdrawal of foreign troops is growing with heavier sacrifices from the bloody fight between the police and the armed people. According to KPP report, the special unit of constabulary was dispatched on 13 April and American troops will be sent in a few days.

According to the announcement issued by Cheju Command, more than 140 people died, including police. If American troops are sent down there, it will result in the Americans who have come here to liberate Korean people, pointing their guns at the Korean people, making this issue an international one.

Stop Killing - Chun Pyung\*\* issues statement on Cheju incident.

Could any citizen of Korea stand idle while they are planning to split our land into two with the purpose of colonizing and making Korea a military base? In spite of that, they are forcing the separate election on the people, threatening and saying that it is the "only means for unification" and it is the "national policy", and also saying that "free atmosphere will be assured", etc.

Is it not a reactionary and traitorous action? Is it not an aggressive action? The cry of the people in Cheju is an example of the patriotic spirit of our people. In spite of the fact that they deserve praise and honour, so many thousand police forces are mobilized to kill the people. Not only that, but the constabularies and the American troops will also be mobilized to carry out a large scale massacre of the people in Cheju. We cannot just watch it happen.

We Koreans have never declared a war against the United States. We are not their enemy either. We do not have to receive such treatment from the Americans and the Americans have not the right to do so. Stop the killing immediately! Abandon the separate-election plot! Withdraw both troops immediately! We want a united democratic independence!

The cry of Cheju people is the cry of our nation. It is a sacred struggle for national salvation! No armed power can stop us from our just demand. We, the members of Chun Pyung, together with

\* (L) signifies leftist.

\*\* Federation of Korean Trade Unions

all labourers and office workers, sternly protest against this inhumane killing. We strongly demand the immediate cessation of this action.

CHOSEN CHOONG ANG ILBO (L), SIN MUN ILBO (L) DOK LIN SHINGO (L)

Let us all arise and join national salvation struggle - Chun Pyung appeals to people through its May Day message

Dear brothers and sisters, dear labourers, office workers and the jobless. We must stand up like human beings. We have the right to live like human beings. Give us things to eat. Give us freedom and independence. May Day is coming. May Day, which conquers the reactionary powers who devour the blood and sweat of the workers is coming.

Brothers and sisters!

Remember the May Day last year! Our working people in Seoul as well as in other towns and farms arose like a flood, despite suppression and arrest by the reactionary police. Have we not shouted until our throats would burst almost? We demanded, "Give the hundreds of the jobless jobs and dwellings! "Do away with the pro-Japanese traitors who sell our factory and who destroy our industry!" "Give us adequate food and wages to support our family!"

Our demands have not been realized yet due to the plots of XXX and XXX, the reactionary pro-Japanese traitors. Behold with their high-sounding labour laws, they are forcing us to work 80 hours to 120 hours each week, using us like slaves or animals, without paying any overtime. Have they not beaten up and arrested the housewives who went to City Hall for increased rations since the ghost population checking campaign? Are they not going to sell our fatherland by bringing in American candies, American corn and American sugar?

Who are the ones who insist that they stay, opposing the Soviet proposal to get out and leave the Koreans to unite themselves and form a government according to their will? Who are forcing the people to join the election by taking away ration tickets and by threatening with guns? Thus, XXX and XXX and their Hankook fellows are not satisfied with making our lives miserable; they are planning to make our land and our nation a colony of X imperialists.

Brothers and sisters! Shall we just stay quiet and let them lead us to destruction? We are standing at the crossroads. Heaven or earth might be divided, but our country is one. Our nation cannot be divided. We cannot be the slaves of the pro-Japanese traitors who are going to make our nation a colony of a foreign Power again.

/We cannot

We cannot be a slave nation to XX! The task of bringing true liberation is on the shoulders of our labourers who are leading the people in the struggle. Have we not fought the September general strike, the October people's struggle, the March general strike and the February 7 people's struggle, leading the people? CHOSUN CHOONG ANG ILBO (L), SIN MUN ILBO (L) DOK LIN SHINGO (L)

Labourers! Office workers! The jobless! Brothers and sisters! Let us all arise and join the struggle against the destructive separate election! Let us join the sacred struggle for establishing our own united independent government and having the foreign troops withdraw! The blood we shed in this sacred struggle will forever remain in our history as blood shed in the liberation struggle. With the sixty-third May Day coming, our fighting spirit against the reactionary powers is ever growing and our patriotic blood is boiling in us! The strength coming from our steel-like unity is great and strong! The victory will be ours. Join under the Chun Pyung banner and fight!

Chun Pyung May Day Committee Formed

Chairman - Hu Sung Taik

Vice-Chairman - Pak Se Yung and Lee In Dong

General Affairs - Moon Un Chong and Moon Il

Propaganda - Pak Bong Woo and Cho Mang Kyu and fifteen others

Mobilization - Hyun Hoon, Pak Byung Il, Pak Sang Ho and thirty others.

B\*

LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1948 FROM THE KOREAN PRESS ASSOCIATION TO  
THE UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

On 27 April the South Korean police authorities attacked three democratic newspaper-publishing companies in Seoul and arrested six of their newspaper staff members. They were tried by the Provost Court of the United States Army and sentenced on the grounds that they had violated the military ordinance prohibiting criticism against the Military Government. The penalty was a fine of one million or half a million won and five years penal servitude, but they were released on probation. We protest against this and request the following:

1. Patriotic Korean newspapermen believe that the general election in South Korea alone, with the government to follow the election, will result in the perpetual division of the land and people and interfere with the united, democratic independence of our fatherland. Therefore, they reported the opinions of the political parties and social organizations opposing the general election, as well as the actual situation as regard the people's violent activities in opposition to the general election. It is natural that the newspapermen should take such action; they were performing their normal duties as men of the press. Nevertheless, the United States Military Government cruelly suppressed them under the pretence that they had violated an army ordinance. Is this the press policy of the free atmosphere which you acclaim?
2. The patriotic press of the Koreans is controlled and suppressed by the above-mentioned ordinance. This suppression implements the interests of the occupation army. Do you think it possible to have a free atmosphere under an alien occupation army?
3. On 17 March you submitted the four clauses and nineteen sections concerning a free atmosphere to the Commanding General of the United States Occupation Army in South Korea. With regard to freedom of information, it was defined in the third clause as "a free atmosphere in which the democratic rights of speech, press and assembly will be recognized and respected". What do you suppose the Army thought of your proposal in face of the fact that they were cruelly suppressing the democratic newspapers in South Korea?
4. You and the United States army authorities negated the principle of the "free atmosphere" when you re-organized the police and restricted the

activities of the youth corps. Do you still feel, nevertheless, that you retain the prestige and confidence of an international body?

5. You ignored the apparent violent suppression which had been resorted to with the power of the occupation army. A statement was issued by you saying that you would not observe the general election unless a free atmosphere were assured. Nevertheless, on 28 April, violating this public pledge, you proclaimed that democratic rights of freedom of speech and press generally exist in South Korea. On what basis was this sort of decision made?

6. While South Korea exists under a reign of terror, you are consciously ignoring reality, judging with prejudice the absolute existence of a free atmosphere, and are proceeding with your work. We, therefore, cannot look upon you as the international mission dispatched by the United Nations but as a body conspiring with some political authorities oppressing the people in accordance with the policy of the military authorities.

We hereby declare that we will do our utmost to ensure the democratic freedom of the press and achieve a united, democratic independence. At the same time, we ask that you give up all your activities of contradictions and perfidy and leave Korea immediately.

ANNEX 2

CANCELLATION OF THE REGISTRATION OF THE CANDIDACY OF  
OF MR. CHOI NEUNG CHIN (INDEPENDENT)\*

A\*

INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHOI NEUNG CHIN, 14 APRIL 1948

Mr. CHOI arrived in the office of Assistant Secretary Engers at 10:25 a.m. and made the following statement:

He and his political friends had assembled 300 signatures to register him as a candidate for election in the district of Tong-Dai-Mun Ku, A Ku, where he wanted to stand as an independent candidate. This district happened to be the same one in which Dr. Rhee Syngman, Chairman of the National Association for the Rapid Realization of Korean Independence was living and planned to stand as candidate for the constituent assembly.

Mr. Choi had been connected with the Counter Intelligence Corps, where he had many friends and before that was a chief in the Korean Detective Bureau. At the moment he was out of employment.

The complainant intimated that while standing as an independent candidate, he had the support of Dr. Kim Kiusic and Dr. Philip Jayson.

So far the complainant and his political friends had been unable to register his name as a candidate. The election officers in Chang Shin Song and in Su Dong Hai had flatly refused to accept and verify the signatures. He had been told:

(a) That it was unpatriotic to try to stand against the one leader Korea had;

(b) That Dr. Rhee's registration was signed by 40,000 constituents, while his was only signed by 300, so that he would not have any chance anyway;

(c) That Dr. Rhee was of the opinion that, since he was running with communist backing and since communists should not take part in the election, he should withdraw.

The complainant stated that he had made several attempts to have his name registered, but had been unable to get satisfaction. His friends at the Counter Intelligence Corps and at Military Government had told him that they could do nothing for him and that the United Nations would certainly do nothing for him since they were there only to observe the elections. The only persons who could help him would be General Helmick and General Dean.

Mr. Choi had been threatened several times by members of rightist youth groups, but he still wanted to be a candidate. He volunteered the opinion that if there were freedom of election and a secret ballot, he certainly had the right to stand as a candidate and also that the 40,000 signatures for Dr. Rhee would not necessarily indicate that these 40,000 persons would vote for Dr. Rhee in the secrecy of the polling booth.

After a conversation with General Weckerling, the complainant was sent to the General's office, where Mr. Kim of the National Election Committee happened to be present. Assurances were given that every effort would be made to get Mr. Choi on the ballot. Information about the results of these efforts was promised.



B\*

LETTER DATED 20 APRIL 1948 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "A" DISTRICT ELECTION COMMITTEE, TONG-DAI-MUN, SEOUL, TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

I have the honour to submit the following reports on the CHOI NEUNG CHIN (Daniel Choi) case in our election district. We report this as there seems to be widespread fabricated rumours and misunderstanding over the case and we must make it clear to all concerned.

We were chosen as members of the election committee in "A" District of Tong-Dai-Mun Ku, Seoul, and since then we have been engaged in the registration work.

On 16 April at 6:50 p.m., the last day of application for election, Mr. CHOI, No. 16-30, Hu Am Dong, Ryong San Ku, Seoul, came to us, accompanied by a United States soldier, reported to be an aide of Military Governor Dean, and stated that he had lost 118 copies of recommendation papers and, producing only 93 recommendation papers, demanded his name be registered in our district. He stated that he would bring the lost 118 copies by noon on 18 April, and wrote out a memorandum to the effect that if he failed to bring the stated copies by the fixed date, he would cancel his registration. But inasmuch as the regulation does not permit registration as applicant for those who possess less than 200 recommendations, we refused to comply with his request. Then Choi forced me to comply with his request, by saying that this was an order from superior authorities. I then had to comply with his request on a purely personal basis and accepted his application as provisional. I then opened a formal election committee meeting at 8:30 p.m. on the same evening and discussed the matter. At this meeting all the committee agreed to refuse the application as it was in violation of Article 27 of the Election Law. Thus, the application was formally refused.

On 17 April we were suddenly summoned by the superior election committee (city committee) and were advised to accept the application. In compliance with the order of the superior committee we opened our committee at 10:30 a.m. on 18 April and awaited the arrival of 118 copies of recommendation papers for Mr. Choi until noon the same date, as promised by Mr. Choi. At about noon Mr. Choi's attorney came, but brought nothing and failed to give us the 118 copies. Mr. Choi's application was accordingly formally refused and cancelled.

We tried every means to make the free atmosphere thoroughly understood and followed by all concerned in our district, and we further tried to find any clue to Mr. Choi's stated loss of his 118 recommendation papers. But unfortunately we failed to find any fact proving the truth of Mr. Choi's statement to the effect that he had lost his papers. We have, therefore, to point out that Mr. Choi's statement of losing his papers, of being refused his application in our committee, of our office acting outrageously, etc., was entirely fabricated and a plot.

On the other hand, the Seoul City election committee instructed us to postpone Mr. Choi's application to 21 April for unknown reasons, but we must be faithful to the election laws and we could not comply with the request to postpone Mr. Choi's application. We could not accept such an illegal and oppressive demand. So we, the "A" District Committee of Tong-Dai-Mun Ku, Seoul, decided to resign en bloc and we have formally resigned our posts.

The above statement is a true and correct narration of the trouble, and we submit this report for your reference and consideration.

(Signed) : PAN BOK YONG, Chairman  
Election Committee, of A  
District of Tong-Dai-Mun Ku,  
Seoul

C\*

NEWS ITEM IN THE SEOUL TIMES, 23 APRIL 1948

"CHOI FORMALLY ACCEPTED AS CANDIDATE

Choi Neung Chin, whose registration as a candidate was the cause of a great deal of hullabaloo, completed all the necessary procedures on Tuesday and was formally accepted as a candidate.

On the same day, the staff members of the Tong-Dai-Mun Election Office resigned en bloc.

Choi announced his intention to run for the candidacy to oppose Dr. Rhee, who runs in the same district. Choi's name was rejected by the Tong-Dai-Mun Election Office. The members of this office were dissatisfied with the decision to allow Choi to run.

The decision was made by the Election Committee of Seoul City on 19 April. The case was brought up by the candidate himself, it was learned.

D\*

LETTER FROM THE KOREAN REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

Seoul, 27 April 1948

We have investigated the case of illegal registration of Mr. Choi Neung Chin as a candidate for election after the expiry of the registration period under the pressure of the American Military Government authorities and respectfully submit the findings to your attention; these, by the way, will be given out to the public.

1. The motive of Mr. Choi in running for election is to frustrate Dr. Syngman Rhee, not out of co-operation with the United Nations plan. His stand against election itself has been made clear by his correspondence with Mr. Kim Koo and Dr. Kim Ki-sic.

2. Nothing has ever happened in the Tong-Dai-Mun "A" election area which was in the least indicative of the alleged disturbance of the free atmosphere. The story of his recommendation documents having been stolen has been found to be his malignant fabrication.

3. Unable to get the necessary documents ready within the registration period, he went about calling on the voters in his area, accompanied by an American soldier and a couple of Korean policemen, which produced for him an intimidating effect and resulted in securing for him the required number of backers, though beyond the time-limit.

The background facts leading to the above conclusions are as follows:

On 13 April 1948 Mr. Choi came to the voting office in the western section of Chang Shin Dong and applied for registration. When told that, as the man in charge of the registration book and the seal was absent, he had to come again the next morning, he demanded and got a certificate to the effect by the election committee head. Mr. Choi did not appear as promised on 14 April but on 15 April, accompanied by an American soldier, and demanded registration. On 16 April at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Choi, accompanied by an American officer alleged to be Military Governor Dean's aide, came to the office of the Tong-Dai-Mun 'A' area election committee, and, producing only 93 persons' recommendation papers, alleging that the rest had been forcibly stolen, he demanded registration on a signed condition that the registration should be nullified, if he should fail to retrieve and produce the lost documents before noon of 18 April. The Committee head first refused on the ground of its being against the election regulations. But, somewhat cowed by the assertion that it was the order of the Military

Government, the Committee head was compelled to give Mr. Choi an unofficial tentative cognizance, subject to the official decision of the election committee, which sat that very evening and decided to rebuff it as being illegal.

On 17 April, however, the election committee for the Tong-Dai-Mun 'A' election area was summoned by the central election committee and asked to recognize Mr. Choi's registration as legal. The committee met again on 18 April and agreed to wait for Choi's documents till noon, for that was the time he himself had fixed. About noon Mr. Choi's deputy came and told the committee that the documents had not been completed. So the committee adopted the nullifying decision and reported it to the central election committee, which thereupon ordered the area committee to postpone the registration period for Mr. Choi to 7:00 p.m. on 21 April. The area election committee tendered its resignation en bloc because it was unable to accept such an illegal procedure.

On 19 April Mr. Choi came accompanied by two Korean policemen, whose service was secured through the good offices of both the central election committee and the Seoul election committee, and visited qualified voters from door to door, half intimidating them to sign the recommendation documents.

On 20 April Mr. Choi's deputy, again accompanied by two policemen, came to the election office and got his name registered. It was done in this way. The Seoul election committee men left and, declaring the resignation of the area election committee, let the hired clerk handling the registration business accept the registration of Mr. Choi.

#### Interview with the Metropolitan Police Chief.

Reporter: Is it true that Mr. Choi Neung Chin was accompanied by two policemen in his door-to-door calls on 19 April asking voters to sign recommendation papers?

Mr. Chang Taik Sang: At the request of the Mayor of Seoul, I dispatched two policemen without asking questions. Afterwards I heard that they were used in Choi's campaigning.

Reporter: Is it true that two policemen were ordered to accompany Mr. Choi again the next day?

Mr. Chang: Yes. When the Mayor asked me to dispatch two policemen again the next day, I first refused, saying that using policemen in election campaigning would interfere with the free atmosphere. But finally I complied upon being told that it was the order of the Military Governor.

/Reporter:

Reporter: Did you ascertain that it was really the order of the Military Governor?

Mr. Chang: By chance, General Dean paid us a courtesy call on the occasion of the removal of the Police Headquarters and told me that at the request of the United Nations Commission, to which Mr. Choi had appealed for the protection of his own person, he had directed the Seoul election committee to see to it.

Reporter: Are you aware of the alleged fact that the voters consented to sign Choi's documents because of the intimidation they felt in the presence of the accompanying policemen?

Mr. Chang: I heard from one of the policemen who accompanied the party that Choi's deputy used the prestige of the accompanying policemen in exacting registration. That is all I heard.

Interview with the Central Election Committee

Question: What legal ground was there for the postponement of the registration period for Mr. Choi Neung Chin?

Answer: The United Nations Commission asked the Military Government, which in turn asked this Committee to postpone it. So we sent written word to the Seoul election committee asking it to do so.

Question: The justification of the postponement seems to rest on the story of robbery of Choi's recommendation papers. Have you any evidence that establishes the statement?

Answer: No, Mr. Choi's statement was taken for granted. No evidence has so far been obtained to establish its truthfulness.

Question: By evidence establishing the robbery alone, the postponement could be justified. Failing to establish it, the postponement as a modus vivendi is invalid and therefore Choi's registration should be annulled. Is the case under investigation?

Answer: Yes, the investigation sectional committee of the central election committee is now at work.

Question: Much adverse criticism is afoot for the reason that an individual's statement was taken at its face value and a change was so lightly made in such a momentous matter. The very dignity of election itself is in danger of being greatly lowered in the public eye. It is, therefore, urgent to push through the investigation and accordingly take a quick decision so as to allay the universal misgivings. When do you expect it to be over?

Answer: The investigation is now progressing and we cannot say anything definite regarding when it will end.

E\*

MEMORANDUM FROM THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICER TO THE  
SECRETARIAT OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

Seoul, 30 April 1948

Forwarded herewith for your information are the facts in the case of registration for candidacy for election to the National Assembly of Daniel (Nung Chin) Choi, presented chronologically.

13 April. In the afternoon of this date, Choi appeared in the office of G-2 USAFIK, to complain that he was not allowed to register as a candidate "due to the interference of Dr. Syngman Rhee". He stated that "Dr. Rhee had ordered that no one would be allowed to register as a candidate opposing him in his district, Dong-Dai-Mun District A". The National Election Committee was informed of this late that afternoon, too late to investigate the matter that night. G-2's preliminary investigation on this date revealed that Dr. Rhee had nothing to do with the case and that the delay in Mr. Choi's registration was a technical matter which arose from difficulty in finding names of family heads of groups among thousands of other names. Mr. Choi had been told to secure from his constituents the number of the tongs or bans in which they resided so that the family heads could be easily checked in the files. Another technical difficulty encountered was the temporary absence from his place of business of the Chairman of the Dong-Dai Mun Ku election district.

14 April. Early in the morning the National Election Committee reviewed Mr. Choi's case informally. Dr. Rhee's secretary denied to the Committee that any threats or orders against registering another candidate in that district had been given. Judge Chong Jyung Keun of the Seoul election committee was ordered to make a thorough investigation. In the meantime, Choi came to Duk Soo Palace to complain to the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. He was brought to my office where he was interviewed by Mr. Kim Dong Song, liaison representative of the National Election Committee. He told Mr. Kim that he had had 118 recommendation papers stolen and therefore could not register. He did not feel that he "could reobtain these registration papers without endangering his friends, due to threats made by Dr. Syngman Rhee". Mr. Kim advised him to try again and said that the National Election Committee would ensure that Mr. Choi's application for registration would be handled exactly as that of any other candidate.

About 4:30 Daniel Choi went to the office of the Military Governor,

Major General William F. Dean, who assured him that his case would be given the most careful consideration.

16 April. On this date, Daniel Choi again appeared at the office of the Military Governor, saying he still was not able to register "because he could not obtain the recommendation papers due to threats". General Dean ordered one of his aides, Lt. George J. Reuss, to provide transportation, to act as an escort and to determine the facts in this case. At 1600 the group went to the Dong-Dai-Mun Ku district election office and was told by the Chairman that written authority from the National Election Committee would be necessary before Mr. Choi could be registered. A statement to this effect was secured from Dr. Chyon, Kyu Hong, Secretary of the National Election Committee. The Chairman of the Dong-Dai-Mun Ku district election committee stated it would be necessary to procure certificates from each of the registration offices from whence had come his recommendation papers, in order to prove that the bona fides had been obtained in the first place. After procuring these certificates the group returned to the district "A" election office and the registration was again refused. After an argument between Mr. Choi and the Chairman, the Chairman reconsidered and tentatively registered Mr. Choi as a candidate on condition that he would obtain the missing registration recommendation papers prior to 1200,

18 April. Later in the evening the district election committee met and decided to reject Choi's registration, the grounds being simply that he had not presented the necessary 200 recommendation papers though he had presented certificates that he at one time did have the necessary bona fides.

17 April. The Seoul election committee ordered the Dong-Dai-Mun district "A" election committee to accept Mr. Choi's registration accepting certificates in lieu of the recommendation papers. This procedure was not provided for by law nor for this matter was either the tentative acceptance of his registration or the extension of the time of registration. The time for submitting the registration papers was then extended to 19 April, 1200.

Lt. Reuss, who had maintained close contact with the Seoul Election Committee was informed of this decision and immediately called Mr. Tanaka of the office of G-2, USAFIK and informed him of the decision and asked him to transmit the information to Mr. Choi so that he could begin assembling the necessary bona fides.

18-21 April. Mr. Tanaka informed Lt. Reuss that Mr. Choi had procured the necessary papers which he would resubmit on 19 April. However, he failed to do this. Another meeting of the National Election Committee was held and it was decided again to extend the registration deadline until 1900, 21 April, at which time Mr. Choi presented his registration papers  
/and was duly



and was duly registered.

Mr. Choi, in conversation with many people during the whole course of his registration, stated many times that "he did not really want to run for election, he only wanted to test the fairness of the election".

From the facts as set forth above I can only conclude that the handling of this case by the Korean election committees was liberal by any standard and in accordance with the spirit of the Election Law and Regulations applicable in this case.

(Signed) John Weckerling  
Brigadier-General, U.S.A.

F\*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF YONGSAN KU YOUNG MEN'S  
CORPS AND YONGSAN KU WOMEN'S CORPS TO THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

28 April 1948

SUBJECT: Petition re candidate named Choi Neung Chin

In regard to the above person, I hereby take the liberty of making the following statements:

1. Above all I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for your great help given to the general election to be held on 10 May next to revive the people of Korea.
2. But it is a thousand pities that the East Gate electoral district has registered the above-mentioned person, Choi Neung Chin as a candidate through undue procedures by postponing for a period of 116 hours, which is really a violation of the law and moreover a disregard of the surveillance of the United Nations Commissioners, to say nothing of its insult to the United Nations.
3. Such being the actual situation, the said illegal registration of Choi Neung Chin as candidate should be cancelled without delay to prevent the occurrence of any other inauspicious event. Any consideration kindly given at your earliest convenience will be greatly appreciated.

(Signed) Lee Ul Sik

President of the Federation of  
Yongsan Ku Young Men's Corps  
and Yongsan Ku Women's Corps  
Yongsan Ku, Seoul

G\*

LETTER FROM MR. JO KUN CHONG TO THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF SYRIA ON THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

Following is the text of a letter addressed to the representative of Syria, who undertook to make the contents available to the Commission:

2 May 1948

Dear Dr. Mughir,

It is easy to say that \_ \_ \_ Paper is an independent newspaper printing information impartially, but very difficult to find such a paper in reality. Although I am not one who is interested in the political conflict itself, I finally decided to send this letter to you as you have been one of members who made an effort to consider a question from all its aspects, and believed that social development can be expected only through the richest diversity of opinions, desires and ambitions of individuals and social parties.

The matter of which I am telling you today, is about Mr. Choi Neung Chin's running against Dr. Rhee, Syngman in the Tong-Dai-Mun "A" electoral district; the following reports were what Mr. Choi directly told me and wished to be delivered to the United Nations Commission on Korea.

1. At 16.00 o'clock on 15 April, when about forty terrorists robbed Mr. Choi's bag, containing recommendation papers, the police caught two terrorists, but they did not straighten out the case, and openly supported Dr. Rhee's group. Not only are the police doing nothing to arrest the robbers, but they said that the story of robbery was all a lie and a made-up story of Choi.
2. On 15 April, the Tong-Dai-Mun police took Mr. Choi's man Lee Kwang Chin to the police station, and asked him why, when, and how he worked for Mr. Choi. They insulted him.
3. On 17 April, one police sergeant who recommended Mr. Choi was suspended from his job. His name is Koo Dong Chin, and the police station is Joong Boo (central).
4. On 23 April, the Tong-Dai-Mun police got the names of Mr. Choi's recommenders from somewhere somehow, and went from house to house with Chun Kook Hak Yun (an all extreme rightists students group), and threatened the citizens: "Did you sign the recommendation paper by force or by your own will?", "Are you intimate with him?", "If not, why did you recommend

him whom you do not know well?", "Anyhow, if you signed on the paper blindly, then sign on this paper." Through this kind of method, the police succeeded in obtaining about thirty so-called confessed papers from the recommenders, and sent them to Chief Chang of M.\* police; Chang's man Choi Woon Ha subsequently sent an order to arrest Mr. Choi, so that he is under order of arrest now.

5. On 23 April, Chief Chang called a police chiefs' meeting, and said "We have to beat down Choi; if Choi wins over Dr. Rhee, it is clear that we will be killed off so we have to kill him now".

6. On 26 April, the Sung Book police prohibited Mr. Choi's men from posting news of his candidature or any sort of handbills of his campaign. That was the new order of Chief Chang.

7. In the evening of 26 April, Kook Chung (extreme right), man Lee Soo San came to Sung Yong Gil who had been badly beaten by them on the previous day, and again asked him "Why did you recommend Choi?" Then they told him to come to the police station where two detectives were waiting for him. He was now at Mr. Choi's home to have medical treatment for his severe injury.

8. In Chang Seen Dong area, Suchung (North western) men, about twenty in each group, entered every house who recommended Mr. Choi, asking "Why and how did you recommend Choi?", since 27 April. Those who tried to avoid a trouble with them, o.k.ed to sign on the prepared paper. The paper must have been so-called confession paper.

9. On 28 April, Chung Chong men, accompanied by the Tong-Dai-Mun police began to call on each recommender of Mr. Choi, and took them over to the police station. The number of the recommenders whom the police took over reached to 160 persons by 29 April.

10. On 28 April, two policemen of Sung Book police took Lee Yun Choo to their station, and beat him and cursed Mr. Choi, then released him conditionally saying "We want to arrest Cha Jang Lok (a man working for Mr. Choi's campaign), and you should help us to arrest him at once."

11. At 16.00 on 28 April, Tong-Dai-Mun detective Kim Kee Tai came to Lee Soong Rong's house with a youth, but Lee was not in the house so that the detective told Lee's mother to come along to the police station, and she could not refuse to go. The detective questioned her as to why she recommended Choi, and she answered "I don't know, but is anything wrong in it?". The detective said, "No but you should not recommend one whom you do not well - anyhow, we will talk to your son".

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\* Metropolitan.

12. Mr. Choi had rented an office room in his campaign area, but the house-owner was threatened on 29 April, and the intelligence section detective Kim called Ko Han, who had got the above-mentioned room for Mr. Choi, to his station. It is clear that the detective requested Ko to stop the rent at once. In March Mr. Choi had a talk with Lt. Col. Wilson of the City Hall with a view to getting an office for the coming election - after all, he had located one - and reported the matter to him. His officer, Capt. Johns, and Mr. Choi himself went to the building, and he agreed to Mr. Choi applying to rent the room. Mr. Choi did apply for the lease of the room, but the City Hall rejected the application.

Up to today Mr. Choi has no room; moreover, the authorities are trying their best to prevent him from getting an office.

13. Now the Sung Book police are pasting "the traffic order" post on Mr. Choi's campaign posts.

14. Mr. Choi was especially eager to ask the United Nations to release Mr. Kim Pyeng Moon, the godfather of Baik Aiwan Orphan House.

On 30 April, he was arrested by the Chong Ro Police Station when he was talking with a group of young men in a tea-room about the election campaign of Choi Noong Chin against Dr. Rhee Syngman. The orphanage needs him very much to bring food and clothes for the orphans every day.

(Signed) JO, Kyu Chun

H\*

LETTER, DATED 3 MAY 1948, FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
RAPID REALIZATION OF KOREAN INDEPENDENCE AND OTHER  
POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS\*\*

We would like to express our gratitude to the members of the United Nations Commission for the continued efforts being made to assist us in establishing our independent government. Owing much to your efforts, the registration was remarkably successful, as 92% of the total number of potential voters registered. This fact well illustrates the ardent desire of the Korean people to have their own government.

Only a small minority - the Korean communists and other obscure elements - is attempting to hinder the election and obstruct the establishment of our own government, following instructions from Moscow. These people are obstinately abetting the ambition and plans of the Soviet Union to communize the world and expand in the East. Hence, the real motive of that problematical candidate from the Tong-Dai-Mun District A, Mr. Choi Neung Chin, is to create obstacles against Dr. Rhee. This fact is well expressed in his letter to Mr. Kim Koo and Kim Kiusic, who are opposed to the election.

After careful examination, we conclude that the rumour that Mr. Choi had been prevented from registering as a candidate was false and aimed at hindering and criticizing the election. There is no evidence whatsoever to prove that Mr. Choi had been prevented from being recommended as he stated. Unable to procure nomination by the last day of registration, Mr. Choi, accompanied by American military personnel and Korean policemen, was registered as a candidate, after illegally prolonging the period of registration.

It is most regrettable that the United Nations Commission is being misrepresented and criticized by the general public for its assistance to Mr. Choi, who has no evidence to prove that he had been denied registration as a candidate and also for his action prolonging the period of registration illegally. He intentionally plans to obstruct the election.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/15/Add.5.

\*\* Translated from Korean.

/Moreover,

Moreover, we have recently been informed that Mr. Choi acquired a large number of the 218 recommendations through false and coercive methods. We have presented the names of fifty-six persons who were deceived into signing the recommendation.\* This not only impairs the dignity of the Commission but is in direct contradiction to the principle of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, having assisted the deceitful action of such a subversive element whose sole aim is to hinder the election.

This case must not be confined to that of a contest between Dr. Rhee and Mr. Choi. Indeed, this is the problem of whether the United Nations Commission is authorized to trample on the good will of a third nation unreasonably and illegally.

We, therefore, appeal to the Commission to re-examine and solve the matter with impartiality as soon as possible. We re-emphasize that you will, otherwise, be criticized and suspected by the patriotic Korean people.

Signed by:

National Association for the Rapid Realization of Korean Independence  
GHQ of the National Unification Group  
Youth Section of the NAARKI  
Great Korea Democratic Council  
Association of Korean Farmers  
Union of all Korean Youths  
League of Youths for National Salvation  
Great Korea Labor Union  
Hankook Democratic Party  
Great Korea Farmers Union  
All Korea Cultural Corps  
Association of Youth Authors  
Central Cultural Association  
Association for all Korean Authors  
Seoul Branch, NAARKI  
Central HQ, Committee for Elections  
Committee for Anti-trusteeship  
Central HQ for Mobilization of the Great Korean Nation  
Association of former Japanese Navy, Army and Air Force Men  
Assembly for the Representatives of the Korean People  
Korean National Representatives Corps

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\* The names, addresses and other particulars of the fifty-six persons were attached with the communication and are available in the Secretariat's files.

I\*

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHOI NEUNG CHIN, 30 APRIL 1948

Mr. Choi arrived in the Office of the Assistant Secretary ENGERS at 2 p.m. with the following complaint:

Mr. Choi stated that General Dean, Military Governor, had assisted him with his problems concerning registration, but that he was now having difficulties with his campaign. Not only was the Young People's Party interfering with his campaign by the use of terrorist methods, but the police were also involved. The police had called in 160 of the people who had signed a petition recommending that he run for election. Of these, the women in particular were threatened and forced to sign a statement to the effect that they did not know Mr. Choi; then, after having been asked how they could have petitioned for someone they did not know, they were compelled to put their thumbprint on a statement indicating that they had signed a petition for Mr. Choi's candidacy under duress. Moreover, the police had tried to arrest twenty persons who had solicited recommendations for him. The people were afraid because members of the Young People's Party had gone to their homes and questioned and threatened them. The police had come into possession of the names of the petitioners which, according to the election regulations, should be kept secret. Twenty-eight policemen told Mr. Choi's men not to post his name on telephone poles, etc., and had pasted traffic regulations over those which he did put up.

Threatening his life had become a common occurrence, his home had been encircled and his movements were constantly watched.

In reply to a question by Mr. Engers, Mr. Choi said that he thought he would receive many votes, not only because he was popular, but because people were against Dr. Rhee Syngman. He had learned from his secret informers that on the previous Saturday, there had been an argument between Dr. Rhee Syngman and his righthand man, who had requested him to withdraw from the election since Mr. Choi was sure to win, while members of the Young People's Party had insisted that, since the Rhee group was in a bad position, it should use all its forces to make the people vote for it and suggested killing Mr. Choi. Dr. Rhee had said "No" to this last suggestion, because he thought it would be impolitic.

On Monday Mr. Choi had gone to see the Military Governor, presenting evidence that his campaign was being interfered with. The Military Governor



had then sent out an order to the police demanding that this interference cease immediately. There had then been much publicity in the papers against him.

On Wednesday, Dr. Rhee Syngman, in talks with his henchmen, had announced that he would try to invalidate the election, stating as a reason that it was against the will of the people. He would then request another election.

Mr. Choi added that Dr. Rhee would lose in his own district and was getting wilder and wilder as he realized that he was surely going to be defeated.

Mr. Choi wished that the election committee of his district might be composed of half of his men and half of Dr. Rhee Syngman's. As it was at present, all of the members of the election committee were henchmen of Dr. Rhee Syngman.

J\*

LETTER FROM THE MILITARY GOVERNOR TO THE PRINCIPAL  
SECRETARY OF THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION

8 May 1948

For your information herewith is a statement on the cancellation of registration of the candidacy of Mr. Choi Neung Chin received this date from the National Election Committee (Appendix).

(Signed) W. F. DEAN

Major General, United States Army  
Military Governor

APPENDIX

Statement on cancellation of registration of candidacy of Mr. Choi Neung Chin

Regarding the registration of Mr. Choi Neung Choi as a candidate in the Tong-Dai-Mun Ku electoral district, City of Seoul, the National Election Committee had received reports from the said electoral committee, and also memoranda from twenty-two political and social organizations, that the recommendations for his candidacy had been unlawful. In order to ascertain if these allegations were true, and to execute the Election Law properly, the National Election Committee deemed it necessary to make a thorough and fair investigation.

As a result of our investigation, it has been determined that fifty-seven out of the 217 recommendations for Mr. Choi were false and secured against the will of persons purported to be his recommendors. Under careful scrutiny by the "thumb print test system", twenty-seven of this number have been clearly determined to be null and void out of the 217 recommendations.

Therefore, it is apparent that Mr. Choi's recommendation was not complete according to the provision of Section 27 of the Election Law, which specifies that 200 or more recommendations are required.

The National Election Committee directs that the registration of Mr. Choi Neung Chin's candidacy in Tong-Dai-Mun Ku electoral committee, district "A", and the Seoul election committee be cancelled for the above reasons.

(Signed) RO CHIN SUL

Chairman,

National Election Committee

K\*

THIRD INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHOI NEUNG CHIN, 9 MAY 1948

Mr. Choi arrived at the Kookje Hotel at 2 p.m. where he was interviewed by Mr. Mughir (Syria), Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Schmidt, Principal Secretary, and Mr. Engers, Assistant Secretary. Mr. Choi presented the following complaint:

Mr. CHOI, rejected candidate, explained that on 7 May, policemen, on the instigation of the Federation of Patriotic Organizations, had spread the news that his candidacy had been rejected. This had been published in the papers on the evening of 8 May. At 10 a.m. on Saturday 8 May, a man had come to his home with the official notification, but as he was not staying at his house because of the threats against his life, his wife had told the man that he was not in, and the man had not delivered the paper, a copy of which Mr. Choi later saw on the Military Governor's table. One of his campaign officials then notified him of his rejection, and at 11 a.m. he had gone to the Military Governor's office where Lt. Reuss, who had already heard of his rejection, suggested that he go to the National Election Committee and find out the reason for his rejected candidacy.

On arriving at the Capitol building around 12 noon, he discovered that all the members of the National Election Committee were in meetings or out of town and, after waiting for some time, he decided to leave in order to write his letter of petition to the Military Governor. In his letter he stated that the reason the National Election Committee gave for rejecting his candidacy was that fifty-seven of the persons who had signed the recommendation for his candidacy had done so under duress, and that they really did not support him. He believed that agents of Dr. Rhee Syngman had taken his original petition of recommendation and substituted false finger-prints. He suggested that the Military Governor question these fifty-seven persons privately, and find out whether the charge of the National Election Committee was true or not.

He felt that he had a right to defend himself, particularly inasmuch as he had criticized Rhee Syngman and such persons as the Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court, and other members of the National Election Committee who were pro-Rhee.

Mr. Choi further pointed out that certain of these fifty-seven persons had reported to his campaign officials that they had been called into the

police station, and that in one instance a man had been detained from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. He had the doctor's certificate in respect of four of his men who were in hospital. The C-in-C had visited them there.

On 9 May he went to an officer of the C-in-C, who sent him to the Military Governor. As the Military Governor was not there, he saw General Helmick at 11 a.m. and presented to him his letter of complaint. After reading the letter aloud in the presence of another officer, General Helmick had said to Mr. Choi that the Military Government had already assisted him when his petition of recommendation for candidacy had been three days late. Although this decision of the National Election Committee was a matter for the Military Governor to decide, as far as he was concerned, it had made a proper decision, and even if there were an investigation concerning the fifty-seven signatures, Mr. Choi's candidacy was still rejected. In reply, Mr. Choi had emphasized that he could not renew his petition and told of the terroristic methods employed by the Rhee group during registration of which the C-in-C was fully aware.

Mr. Choi told how the various Rhee groups, including a sort of block association, had pulled down his posters, how registration officials and election committee Chairmen had openly made speeches and distributed handbills on behalf of Dr. Rhee Syngman, because Dr. Rhee wanted an excuse to drop out of the election since he knew he could not win in the district.

He further told of the various threats, none of which were written, which had been made on his life, such as the instructions received by the man who had murdered Iyuh Wong Hong to assassinate him also and the instructions which Mr. Paik, a Buddhist fortune-teller, had given to Dr. Rhee to have him eliminated.

Finally, Mr. Choi reported that, according to the election regulations, each candidate was supposed to appoint a man, five days before the election, to be present at the electoral office. He had done so, but was never informed where the electoral office was to be found. The election committee had told him to deliver his letter to the electoral box, but when he asked where it was, the Chairman of the Committee had said that he did not know. Moreover, when he had tried to bring his picture to the electoral office on the previous Thursday and Friday, he was unable to do so, because of the lack of knowledge as to its whereabouts.

Mr. Mughir thanked Mr. Choi for his information, and stated that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Commission.

ANNEX 3\*

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE FREE ATMOSPHERE FOR ELECTIONS  
CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGED WITH THE UNITED STATES LIAISON OFFICER  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA

A

30 April 1948

Memorandum to the United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission.  
From: I. F. G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee.

At its fifth meeting on 27 April 1948, the Main Committee of the Commission, after considering a number of complaints submitted to it regarding the conduct of the elections, decided that specific complaints substantiated by some concrete evidence should be listed and forwarded to the United States authorities concerned.

A list of such complaints received is annexed to this memorandum. Appendix I consists of:

(a) Complaints received by the observation groups of the Commission, 19-23 April 1948.

(b) Complaints addressed to the Commission in Seoul, 17-24 April 1948.

With regard to (b), 1, the text of a miscellaneous series of complaints received from the Supporting Society for the establishment of anti-Japanese movements is attached as Appendix II.

Any observations which you may care to make concerning these complaints would be appreciated for the information of members of the Main Committee.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/23.

## APPENDIX I

### (a) COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE OBSERVATION GROUPS OF THE COMMISSION, 19-23 APRIL 1948

#### OBSERVATION GROUP I

##### Pochun, Kyonggi-do

The special situation in Pochun District, Kyonggi-do, was brought to the attention of the group by several of the candidates standing in that constituency. The district includes six islands and about one-quarter of the more than 13,000 eligible voters are fishermen. It was intimated that these people could hardly afford to miss one day's catch to come into town to vote.

Special measures, such as the sending out of a launch equipped as a voting-booth and also the extension of voting time, were suggested as remedial measures.

#### OBSERVATION GROUP II

##### Chinchon Gun headquarters, Chung Chong Pukto

In an interview on 20 April 1948, Mr. Pak No Yul, Independent candidate, stated that members of the National Association for the Rapid Realization of Korean Independence had twice dispersed groups of people who had assembled to hear him speak and he had finally promised not to make any more speeches.

##### Chungju, Chung Chong Pukto

In an interview on 21 April 1948, Mr. Yi Hi Sung, Independent candidate, stated that people between the ages of 18 and 40 had been forced to become members of the Dai Dong Youth Organization and that only one out of the 13 Myuns opposed joining. The Dai Dong Organization had convened a meeting of its Myun chiefs and instructed them to make propaganda for the Dai Dong candidate.

In an interview on 21 April 1948 with Mr. Hong Chai Sik and four other representatives of the National Democratic Front, the following complaints were made:

- (1) A Mr. Choi Chong Soo of the National Democratic Front Organization in Seoul, who had desired to see members of the United Nations Commission's observation group who were in Chungju on 5 April on a previous visit, had been arrested on 5 April, handed over to the Prosecutor's office, and his whereabouts were still unknown. There had been a demonstration  
/in Chungju

- in Chungju on 5 April against the election and it had been alleged that Mr. Choi was responsible for its organization.
- (ii) Miss Yi Chong Ok, who had met members of the Commission's observation group on 5 April in Chungju had been followed by a detective on her way home after the interview. She had requested that the detective refer to members of the Commission who, during her interview, had promised her safe conduct. Miss Yi stated that she had been compelled by the detective to go to the Dai Dong Youth Organization at Soo-chong, Chengju, where she was "insulted and evilly treated" and later had received similar treatment from the provincial headquarters of the Dai Dong Youth Organization.
- (iii) Mr. Kim Du-whan of Chengju had been arrested, tortured, and then killed by the police as the suspected murderer of Son Byung Du. In addition, Prosecutor An Moongyong was stated to have instructed the police "we cannot examine suspected persons without torture", and had undertaken personally to assume responsibility in such cases.

Chon-ju, Cholla Pukto

In an interview on 23 April 1948, Mr. Yi Chol Sung, Independent candidate, stated that election posters had been torn down during his campaign and that the police had disturbed his meetings. On 18 April, when he was making a speech at the Sangmu theatre, the police had interfered with the meeting.

OBSERVATION GROUP III

Masan, Kyongsang Namdo

In an interview on 21 April 1948 with Mr. Kim Soo San\*, Chairman of the Korean Independence Party in Masan, the following complaints were made:

- (i) Right of assembly: At 10 a.m. on 20 April 1948, Mr. Kim requested permission from the Masan police station to hold an inaugural meeting in connexion with the formation of the Korean Independence Party. The Chief of the police station had replied that the request would be transmitted to the Director of the 7th Police Division who was authorized to

\* Members of Observation Group III were assured by the United States military authorities in Masan that Mr. Kim would have their full protection following the interview.

/give such permission



give such permission and that Mr. Kim would be informed of the result. By 21 April, Mr. Kim had had no notification regarding his request. In support of his complaint Mr. Kim stated that following a request on 17 April, Mr. Moon Il Min received permission to make a speech in the Theatre of Citizens on 18 April at 10 a.m. and similarly that public meetings were addressed between 18 and 20 April by Mr. Son Bon Je in furtherance of his political views.

(11) Freedom of speech and press: On 18 February and 10 March 1948, Mr. Kim requested permission from the Masan Police Station to put up posters\* on which were written his party's slogans. Permission was rejected on the ground that such posters "might disturb the minds of the people".

(11i) Registration: Mr. Kim stated that on 8 April 1948 Mr. Rhee Won Jin, a resident of Jin Gyor Myun, Ha Dong Gun, had informed him that he had been directed to return to his village accompanied by a person from the Myun office on the grounds that he had not yet registered. Mr. Kim further stated that he saw Mr. Rhee being so accompanied back to his village.

(b) COMPLAINTS ADDRESSED TO THE TEMPORARY COMMISSION IN SEOUL, 17-24 17-24 APRIL 1948

1. From: The Supporting Society for the establishment of Anti-Japanese Movements.

Date: 17 April 1948.

The text of the First Report and Second Report (abridged) purporting to set out the "Facts of Forcing the Registration of Voters in Seoul (March 30-April 10)" is attached as Annex II (document A/AC.19/SC.4/18).

2. From: Korean Public Opinion Association.

Date: 20 April 1948.

The Korean Public Opinion Association made an investigation on 12 April at Chongro and Choongmoo-ro concerning the forced registration for the election, and gave the result to the public.

However, on 15 April, the Department of Public Information announced that our Association had been warned for the last time

\* Copies of several such posters were handed to members of the Group by Mr. Kim. The copies received do not refer to the elections as such but set out briefly the aims and social doctrines of the Korean Independence Party.

because the results of the investigation were unbelievable and would disturb public safety. The DPI charged that we did not inform it before we published the result of the investigation, as if we were under its control. Our Association is composed of prominent men of culture in South Korea. The DPI announcement is an open insult to us.

3. From: YI Sang Hun, representative of thirty inhabitants, P'il-dong, Seoul.

Date: 21 April 1948.

Knowing quite well that your mission to Korea is to observe an election in a free atmosphere, we wish to register our protest against forced registration, and cite the following cases for your consideration:

1. In Ch'angch'on-dong, Sodaemun-ku, members of the Taedong Youth Corps and the Dong Association, warned the residents who would not register that they would be punished as "reds" after the establishment of a government in South Korea.
  2. In Pon-dong, Yongdunpo'o-ku, two members of a certain youth corps visited each house and warned the inhabitants that if they did not register they would be punished in the future.
  3. On the 3rd Street of P'il-dong, Chung-gu, persons who did not register were pointed out as "reds", with the result that most women registered without consulting their husbands for fear of being punished.
  4. In Huam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Taedong Youth Corps members threatened those who did not register that they would have their rice ration cards confiscated and would be termed "reds".
4. From: LNU Chung Wha and fifty-seven residents of 3rd KU, Ahyun Dong, Seoul.

Date: 24 April 1948.

On 5 April, Pak Eun-hyun, head of the Dai Dong Youth Corps of the 3rd Ku, attacked Chang Seung-do, resident of #2-534, Ahyun Dong, because he had not registered for the elections. Furthermore, Chang's wife was taken to the Corps office and beaten because Chang had escaped after being attacked.

The 3rd Ku Dong Association, Ahyun-Dong, especially the 4th Ban-jang of the 1st Dong, with members of the Dai Dong Youth Corps, requested the people to come to the office of the Corps and forced those who had not yet registered to register.

5. From: Korean Civil Liberties Union.

Date: 22 April 1948.

(1) On 10 April more than ten secret policemen of Jaiku Police

/Station

Station came to the law-court, forcibly demanded to see the judge of the district court, Kim Ryunsu, who had rejected a request to issue a warrant for arrest, and when he refused the interview, they seriously thrashed an official there. This fact apparently shows that owing to their overwhelming power, the police despise even judicial officers, and you can guess that the rights of ordinary people are violated even more frequently in everyday affairs.

- (ii) The authorities announced the release of 3,140 prisoners who were accused of the offense of unlawful assembly, or of similar offenses, but the list of them is not yet published, and when our League asked for the list of the released, the authorities denied access to it.

- (iii) 1. Mr. Bak Ryonghyun and forty-seven other people living in Chungun Dong were forcibly and fraudulently registered.

For example: At 7 a.m. on 9 April, Choi Sukku, the 4th Banchief of 3rd Tong, Chungun Dong, intruded into every house and forced the inhabitants to register, saying fraudulently that the registered would be allocated special goods.

2. Mr. Kim Manchung (living in Ip-jung Dong) was forced to register by the joint pressure of election committee and terrorist body. In Ip-jung Dong since 3 April, members of the election committee, named respectively Bak Ung-myun (former chairman of Dong assembly), Lee Kwang-sup (sub-chief of Dai Dong Youth), Sim Sung-ku, Chung Kwang-oh (member of Supervisors' committee of Dai Dong Youth), Mun Mu-kyung (chief of Dai Dong Youth), etc. threatened the not-registered and declared they would be prosecuted in the name of the police, mobilizing many Dai Dong Youth terrorists.

3. At the 4th Tong of 1st Dong assembly in Sungbuk Dong, the registration was forced.

(a) On 12 April, a secretary of Dong assembly, named Chung Seng-ok, accompanied by a policeman, intruded into the Tong-and Ban-chiefs' and menaced to speed the registration.

(b) On 3 April, a police-detective of Sungbuk police Station intruded into the Tong-and Ban-chiefs' and forced to submit the list of the not registered.

/(c) About

(c) About 7 p.m. on 2 April, two members of Kuk-chung youth intruded into a great many houses and forced to submit food allocation cards and sign on blank-papers, a letter recommending Syngman Rhee and against his opponents.

4. At Muhak girls' school both teachers and girls were threatened respectively to be fired or expelled from school by school authorities in case the teachers or girls' parents would not register.

5. Hu Yun (149, 2nd Tong, Yong Du Puk Dong, Tong Tai Moon Ku) is one of the sufferers of the following: (a) on 7 April, two detectives accompanying Tong chiefs and Ban chiefs visited from house to house and forced citizens to register. (b) When a woman of 6 Tong went to the registration booth to register on behalf of her husband who was away, she was told that she did not need to sign because they would sign. (c) Some members of Kukchung, intruding into every house, threatened inhabitants that they would regard those who did not register as "reds". Two women, surnamed Chang and Ko, were asked whether they had registered by Ree Ik Zu, Vice-head of Kuk Chung Youth, and when they answered in the negative, the two women were slandered as national traitors and so on.

APPENDIX II\*

REPORT BY THE SUPPORTING SOCIETY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENTS\*\* CONCERNING THE FREE ATMOSPHERE  
FOR ELECTIONS, 17 APRIL 1948

THE REAL PROCESS OF THE FORCED SEPARATE ELECTION  
OF SOUTH KOREA

INVESTIGATION REPORT I

The Facts of Forcing the Registration of Voters in Seoul (30 March -  
19 April 1948).

THE FIRST REPORT

Compulsion of Registration

A. Police

1. Compulsion of registration by the Police

(a) Threats against not-yet-registered electors by Police:

Some Police detectives intrude and threaten the not-yet-registered at Yongdu Dong, on 4 April.

At Ulchiro street 1st, policemen, carrying the census register, intrude and threaten not-yet-registered.

At Kwanghi Dong, policemen intrude each house and threaten that not-yet-registered will be punished.

At Ipchung Dong, policemen of Central Police Station intrude not-yet-registered and compel to register.

At 8th Voting District of Chungnung Ri, armed policemen compel to register.

At Mt. No. 7, Anyon Dong (some hundred houses are there), police detectives compel to register on night of 4 April.

At Pil Dong, armed policemen intrude each house and compel to register.

At the 16th Voting District of Noryangjin, policemen confine Mr. X who has not yet registered. His name is unknown.

At North Tongsung Dong, carrying the Ban Register, police compel to register.

\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/18. The text of this document is as in the English version submitted, with minor editorial revision.

\*\* Registered as the Relief Society for Anti-Japanese Struggles (No. 40) in the Revised List of All Korean Political Parties and Social Organizations at the National Level under United States Army Military Government in Korea Ordinance 55 (22 January 1948).

Police investigated the electors at West Ukku Dong and Donam Dong.

At Chungwha Dong, policemen in private suits, collaborating with twenty members of Su-buk Youth Society, compel to register.

At Sangrim Dong, police call on the not-yet-registered three or four times everyday and compel to register.

At Yechang Dong policemen intrude each house and compel to register.

Police detectives of Sungbuk Police Station intrude not-yet-registered and investigate the reason for non-registration.

- (b) Directives or compulsions against chiefs of Ban and Tong by Police.

At Chungku District, policemen call on chiefs of Ban and Tong, and announce that not-registered shall be punished.

Shungbuk Police Station ordered each Dong Assembly to present the list of not-yet-registered.

On 4 April, at the 3rd Tong of Daiwha Dong 2nd, three police-detectives and three policemen in uniform call on chief of the Tong, and threaten to make Tong people register.

At Ipchung Dong, the meeting of the chiefs of Ban is held by the directives of police, and there the police threaten that they will arrest the not-yet-registered.

At the 7th Tong-chief's, Ukku Dong, the chief of the detective section of East Gate Police Station threaten that police will investigate and arrest the not-yet-registered.

At Chungwha Dong Assembly, chief of one section of Sungbuk Police Station sponsors the meeting of the chiefs of Tong and compels an account of the not-yet-registered to be presented.

Sungbuk Police Station holds the meeting of the chiefs of Ban and Tong and compels registration, but chiefs of Ban and Tong opposing this compulsion, their registration.

But their registrations not allowed.\*

- (c) Threats against members of election committee by police.

At Ipchong Dong, the chief of detectives, section of Central Police Station call on the chairman of election committee and threaten him because of poor record on 2 April.

The chief of Police Branch Station comes to the election office in the Da Dong Assembly, calls a meeting of Ban and Tong chiefs and orders to compel registration in three days.

\* As in English text received.

2. Compulsion of Dong Assembly under the control of police.

At the East District of Ukku, north Tongsun Dong, chief of Tong, collaborating with the police, investigates the reason for non-registration.

At Chungnung Ri, chiefs of the Tong threaten that they will send the list of not-yet-registered to the police.

Dong Assembly of East District of Ukku, Do Nam Dong, threaten that the assembly will stop the food allocation of not-yet-registered under the directives of the police.

At Sung Bak, Dong Assembly compels to submit the account of the not-yet-registered under the directives of public peace section of Sung Buk Police Station.

3. Terrorist youth bodies, collaborating with police, compel to register

At Ton Ahem Dong, the Kuk-Chong Youth and the Dai Dong Youth, collaborating with police, threaten to send the names of not-yet-registered to the police.

On 4 April, the detectives section of Sung Buk Police Station order the Kuk Chong Youth and Independence Youth Society to make two copies of the not-yet-registered and to submit one to the police and keep the other copy.

At Ship-Sa-ri of Won-dang Myon, a youth body carries away and beats the not-yet-registered severely and hands them over to police.

At the Kuk Chong Youth Office in Tong-Sun Nambu Dong, one policeman of Sung-Buk Police Station says that the police had mobilized about 1,500 members of the Su Buk Youth Society to compel to register.

B. Dong office or election committee

1. The intruding of every house and the compelling to register by the Dong Office and Election Committee.

(a) The compulsion by the chiefs of Dong, Tong and Ban.

The chief of Chang Sung Dong has continued to compel to register since 1 April.

The staff of Hyo Chang Dong in Ryong San District intrude every house and compel to register.

On 1 April, Ru-ha Dong Assembly compel to register.

At Ehi Wha Dong, the chiefs of Ban distributed the registering paper and compel to register.

The chief of the 1st Ban of the 8th Tong in Jhu Nong Dong, intrude every house and compels to register, threatening that the not-registered shall be punished.

/The chief of

The chief of Wha Dong and other seven persons have intruded and compelled registration.

The Dong Assembly of the 3rd street of Ul-Chi ro compels to register.

At Ahan Am Dong, the staff of the Dong assembly, carrying the registering papers, intrude every house and compel to register.

The chiefs of Ban in Chang Sin Dong intrude every house and compel to register.

In the boarding house of Seoul University hospital, the dormitory-inspector compels to register.

Certain chief of Ban (member of election committee) of Hoo Am Dong intrudes every house and compels to register.

(b) The compulsion by the election committee.

The election committee of 64th Voting District in the second street of Chang Chun Dan intruded every house and compels to register.

On 1 April, the election committee of Gung Jhung Dong intrudes every house and compels to register.

The chairman of the election committee of Chuk Sun Dong intrudes every house and compels to register.

2. Compulsion of registration by threatening to suspend the food allocation or by other intrigues.

(a) Compulsion by threatening to suspend the food allocation.

Some chiefs of Ban of Won-su, Ka-Hwe and Pal-Ban Dong compel to register, threatening to suspend the food allocation.

Chief 8th Ban, 5th Tong, Don-Am Dong, compels to register, threatening the withdrawal of the food allocation card.

Chief and sub-chief of 6th Tong, Mun Wha Dong, compels to register.

Chief assembly of Ban, Tong and Dong of Pyong Dong, decided to seize the food allocation card from not-yet-registered, on 31 May.\*

Won Nam Dong and Kwe Dong compel registration.

Seng Ku Dong Assembly gives notice to suspend the food allocation of the not-yet-registered.

Chief of 3rd Ban, 3rd Tong, Chung Mu hak Dong has finished



the compelled registration, threatening the confiscation of the food allocation card.

Ouk Su Dong compelled registration in the same manner.

On 3 April chief of 4th Ban, 2nd Tong, Ka Hwe Dong, compels to register by seizing the food allocation card.

Chief of 2nd Ban and Tong of Ka Hwe Dong compels to register seizing the food allocation card.

Chief of 7th, 3rd Tong of Sa Zik Dong, orders registration, seizing the food allocation card.

Chief of Ban, Hyun Chu Dong threatens to carry off the food allocation card. The registration book is signed at each gate.

Chiefs of Seu-Ke Dong threaten to snatch the food allocation card.

At Sue Sa Heun Dong and Lo Lyand Jin, allocation is suspended against not-yet-registered.

At Ton Am Dong, the not-yet-registered are threatened with confiscation of food allocation cards.

A certain Mr. Ahn, a member of Election Committee of 1st Sung Buk Dong Assembly, says "Most of the men have registered in their fear of confiscation of the food allocation cards."

(b) Not-yet-registered threatened as "red".

Kwan Chul Dong assembly, holds a Ban-chiefs' meeting, and there defines the not-yet-registered as "red".

The adult education meeting of Hwe Hyun, Sa-Kan Dong define not-yet-registered as "red".

Chiefs of Tong, Jai Ki Puk Dong, threaten the not-yet-registered as "red".

(c) The not-yet-registered threaten to present the written reason.\*

Don Ann Dong Assembly does so.

Sam Chung Jung Bu Dong Assembly does so.

(d) Registration induced by devices.

At Changsin Dong, Dong Dai Moon Ku, Dong Assembly, mobilizing ignorant women, force them to seal with the thumb.

In Sudai Moon Ku the residents are told to bring their food cards for general census, and then forced to seal with the thumb.

\* As in English text received. May mean:  
"threatened that they must present written reason for non-registration."  
(Note by the Secretariat.)

At Hye Dong Assembly office, the UNHRA goods are given to the residents only after their registration.

At Puk Aym Dong, compulsory registration of women is made. Compulsory registration committee jointly by Dong Assembly and terrorist youth organizations.

At Sampan Street, members of youth organizations blackmail by saying that the not-registered are to be carried away to Dong office and beaten.

In the whole area of Chongno 2nd district, respectively one male and female members of Youth General Federation, joined by the staff of Dong Assembly make threatenings. The 3rd district Election Office is set up in the office room of Dai Dong Youth and there the registration is forced.

At Sampah Street, the chairman of Independent Youth and Tong chiefs call on each Ban chief and force registration.

At In-1 Dong, an official of the Dong Assembly and two members of Kuk Chung seal with the seals snatched from the not-registered.

At Daihyun Dong, Tong chiefs and Ban chiefs, joined by members of Dai Dong Youth, force the registration.

C. The terrorist youth organizations force the registration.

1. Youth members force the registration by visiting each house.

At Hye Dong, members of Dai Dong Youth visit each house, forcing the register.

At Ahyun Dong, members of Dai Dong Youth force the register on March 30.

Dong Dai Hun Ku branch of Kuk-Chung Youth force to register.

At Dang San Dong, members of Dai Dong Youth force to register.

At Chung-Ryang-Ri, members of Youth General Federation force to register.

In every Dong district, members of Youth General Federation and Su-buk Youth force to register.

At Puk Ahyun Dong and Hyangchon Dong, members of Youth General Federation force the registration and beat those who have refused.

At Ukku Su Dong, members of Independent Youth and Su-buk Youth force to register.

At Namsan 2nd, three members of Youth General Federation force the registration on 3 April.

Three members of Su-uk Youth intrude a certain name of Mr. Choi's and force the register.

/At Ahyun Dong,

At Ahyun Dong, members of Youth General Federation force to register

Members of Su-buk Youth intrude the house of a certain member of Hankook Independence Party, forcing the register but are refused. At night on the same day, they attack the same house. At Myong-ryun Dong 4th, members of Independence Youth threaten, saying "we are detectives".

Members of Kuk Chung Youth of Ahyun 6th Ku, threaten calling the not-registered "red".

At Sung Puk Dong, a member of a certain terrorist youth organization, pretending to be a person of the Ku-office, investigates the not-registered in the name of the census.

2. Terrorist Youth members threaten saying they will appeal to violence and other unlawful activities.

Members of Youth General Federation and Su-buk Youth scribble in the daytime as follows: "Those who refuse to register are communists".

In the whole area of Namsan and Hoihyun Dongs, members of the Youth General Federation go around shouting through microphone as follows: "Those who do not register are red, so we shall punish them".

At Chong ri Dong, members of Su-buk Youth threaten saying: "Those who do not register shall be mopped up".

At Song sun nam Ku 4th Tong, members of All Korea Federation of Students threaten the Ban chiefs whose Ban's record of registration is poor, to go to police station with them.

At both East and West Ku, Ukku Dong, members of the Youth General Federation threaten saying: "Those who do not register shall be exiled".

At Ukku Su Dong, members of Su-buk Youth dare to do terrorism against the not-registered.

At Mukohung Dong, members of Dai Dong Youth compel to recommend Mr. Pak Chung Heun's candidacy.

- D. Interference in the registration made by administration offices and schools.

1. Administration offices force to register.

At City Hall a conference on the inspection of the election is held, and it decides to mobilize 2,000 persons for inspecting the registration and instructs them to ask the reason for not registering and to force the not-registered to register.

Dong-chiefs of both Hyunchi and Kongpyung Dong, are called to Ku-office on 3 April and blamed for their Dongs poor records of registration.

/In accordance

In accordance with the directives of the Educational Department, each school in Seoul investigates whether the school-boys have registered or not.

2. School authorities force to register.

Muhak girls' middle school declared "daughters and sisters of the not-registered shall be expelled from school", and threatens as follows: "The not-registered teachers should resign".

Changsin primary school in Dong Daimoon Ku declares: "We are not able to teach the children of the not-registered".

At Seoul middle school, teachers claim on the platform that not-registered are national traitors.

Unlawful and false registration

A. Registration outside of the election office.

At Cheki Dong, Uksu Dong, and Chungwha Dong, registration is made by taking round the registration paper and forcing to seal.

At Rihwa Dong, the same.

B. Registration not by the person in question.

At Chunnong Dong, the Dong office tells the residents that if the person in question is absent, anyone of the family should act on behalf of that person and compels it to be done.

At Sincul Dong, the Dong-office announces the residents should come with their seals, and the registration of those voters not having seals is forced, whoever they may be.

At Chung Ku, compulsory registration is made through voters' agents.

C. Registration by "ghosts".

Sin Chairuk in 1st-Ban of 8th Tong at Chun-nong Dong, conspiring with the Ban-chief and the Tong-chief, has five "ghost" households, and at the registration, bringing his nine acquaintances with him, he has the whole ghost population registered as voters.

Although composed of 200 households in all, Changchundan refugees camp in 11th Tong, No. 5, at Changchundun 1st-Ku (the 64th electorate in Chung-Ku), had 150 households falsely listed, and made double registration.

At Unhung Dong, members of Dai Dong Youth have made double or even triple registration.

THE FACTS OF FORCING THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS  
IN SEOUL

The Second Report\*

A. Coercion of Registration

I. Police

1. Police detectives searched houses of all non-registered, and forced them to register at night on 6 April in the area of North Ahyun-Dong, Su-Tai-Mun Ku.

Collective coercive action was severe in the district under the jurisdiction of the Sung-Buk Police.

2. Coercion by Police against Dong assembly and election committee. On 5 April, Chongno police pressed upon the Nak-won-Dong election committee to coerce citizens to register.

Song Buk police held a Ban-chiefs' assembly under its administration and told them to force citizens to note the date of registration and particularly in the case of those who had refused registration, to ask them to clarify their reasons for refusal. Moreover, the police announced that those who refuse shall be investigated directly by police detectives.

As a result of such coercion by the police, in each Ku 300 or 400 residents (up to 3 April, only 300 in all five Kus, Dongsun Buk Dong, had registered) have come to register within 4 or 5 days. Because of investigation by police detectives, refusal is not realizable.

On 3rd April, the Chief of the police detachment in Da-Dong came to the Da-Dong registration office, and, after checking the results of the register, reported it to his headquarters on the telephone. Then he instructed the town election committee to make the residents register within three days, and added that it was the order of his headquarters.

On 5 April, two armed policemen and two detectives who were dispatched to the 5th Ku, Ahyun-Dong, instructed the election committee to investigate the unwilling members among the committee, those who had refused to register and "reds" in the Dong.

Also in Hyangdang-Dong, police intruded into each Ban-chief's and ordered them to investigate the not-registered.

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\* Note by the Secretariat: In view of the fact that its contents are similar to that of the First Report, this document has been abridged. The full text is available in the Secretariat's files.

3. Joint coercion by Police and Dong assembly.

In the 2nd voting district of Shin-Sul-Dong, a five-man team composed of 2 policemen, 2 members of election committee and one Ban-chief, intruded into every house and forced registration, on April 7.

On both 5 and 6 April, a policeman and a Tong-chief intruded the 5th Ban-chiefs at 3rd Tong, Pil Dong, and forced registration. At Dongsshun Dong and 1st Street of Kwanghi Dong, police detectives, collaborating with members of Dong assembly forced to register.

Also at 1st and 2nd streets of Whawon and 1st street of Kwang-hi Dong, most people were forced to register, being threatened with confiscation of their food cards.

4. Joint coercion by Police and terrorist youth bodies.

In the morning of 3 April, 8 men composed of 3 armed policemen, 3 male and 2 female members of Youth General Federation, accompanied by the Ban-chiefs, intruded each house in the 2nd Street of Wuck Dong and forced to register. They then threatened the not-registered with confiscation of food cards. Moreover, 3 members of a Youth General Federation violently told the residents that they have the right to force the registration in that area. Kim-Byungho (39 years old) living at 110th of 2nd Street, Tai-wha Dong, was intruded by 6 men composed of 3 policemen and 3 members of the Independent Youth Association, and threatened that he must register.

II. Dong assembly and election committee.

(a) Coercion by Dong assembly.

1. Forcing to register by intruding each house.

On 4 April, one Ban-chief, Bukchang Dong, forced to register, carrying about a list of the not-registered.

At Myung Dong, the Dong assembly which had been astonished by the poor record of registration (by 4 April, only 20 per cent of the electorate had registered) forced registration carrying about the Dong census register.

On 4 April, the 4th Tong-chief, Okin Dong, forced the not-registered to come to the office of the Dong assembly.

On 5 April, all members of Tong-chiefs and San-chiefs in Musang Dong jointly intruded every house and forced registration.

2. Coercion by seizing food cards or suspension of food allocation.

/In 5th Street

In 5th Street of Bon-cheung, those who refused are having their food allocation cards confiscated.

The Dong-chief of Sin Dong sent directives through the Ban-chiefs for suspending the food allocation of the not registered.

3. Forcing to register by threatening as "reds".

On 3 April, the Chief of 2nd and 3rd Tong, Kong-Duck-Dong, intruded each house and threatened those who refused to register as "Communists".

4. Forcing to submit their reasons for refusal to register.

As Changsin Dong, the members of the Dong assembly intruded the not-registered and forced to submit their reasons for refusal, on 7 April.

(b) Coercion by the election committee.

On 5 April, the chairman of Kyunkong Dong election committee named Yun Myungsun intruded the Ban-chiefs and ordered them to force the registration against the non-registered.

From 3 April on, members of the election committee in Ipchung-dong have driven the residents to the registration by visiting every house in the Dong and threatening, with the help of Dai-dong Youth terrorists.

(c) Collaboration of Dong-assembly and terrorists youth bodies.

On 6 April, at Mak-won-dong, the staff of the Dong-Assembly, chiefs of Ban and the chief of the inspection section of Dai Dong Youth threatened the residents, saying that while there would be allowed the freedom of denial of the election, the results of the denial would not be good.

At In-Hyun-dong 1st street, the Dong chief and terrorist youth brought many Dong-residents forcibly to the registering office and made them sign, threatening that the not-registered would be deprived of their food-card.

At Dai-Hyun-dong, chiefs of Dong, Tong, and Ban and members of youth bodies invaded every house and forced the registration.

III. Terrorist Youth Bodies.

(a) Invading of houses and forcing of registration by threat.

At Puk-a-Hyun-dong, 5 or 6 Youth General Federation terrorists, with the Ban chief, invaded the not-yet-registered's and forced registration, on 4 April.

On 8 April, at Myung-Ryun-dong 5th street, 3 Kuk-Chung terrorists called on every house and threatened.

(b) Propagating activities.

The Youth General Federation have pasted bills on the wall saying that the not-registered are agents of the communists.

/Wall-bills are

Wall-bills are pasted on the wire-pole in front of the preparatory course of Seoul University, in Chung-ryang-ri, saying that the not-registered must be reported.

(c) Threats with violence or suggestions (of violence).

Mr. Chang (teacher of Su Dai Mun school) in Ahyun Dong of Mapo district was injured by 5 members of the Dai Dong Youth led under the command of the chief of the Youth branch on the reason of not having registered. (Mr. Chang needs one week's medical treatment).

In Su-Bu-Dong, Sang Wang Ship Ri of Sung-Tong district, the Dai Dong Youth carried away and beat citizens for the reason of denial of registration and handed them over to police. The sufferers are still now in detention.

The Kuk-Chung Youth in 4th Street of Chung Mu Ro adopted the resolution that from then on they would intrude the not-yet-registered twice, and if even then not accepted, they would carry them away and make them register compulsorily. They call themselves the advance guard for the election.

IV. Administrative organs and schools.

The Education Bureau called out all teachers of civics of the primary and middle schools, and ordered them to hold a guardians' meeting in each school, and to do canvassing for the registration. All schools have received an official note in which they indicated that each school must take charge of making all teachers, students and their families participate the election, and the result should be reported.

Each school has propagated the refuser as "red". (For example: at the IIIrd Girl's School and Hung-In Primary School).

B. False Registration

1. Registration outside of the Registering Offices:

The Registering-office at Sokong-dong, Choong-Ku, distributed the registering-paper to the not-yet-registered on 6 April and persuaded them to register without omission by 7 o'clock on the 6th.

2. Acting Registration:

At the 4th district of Ahyun Dong, one person from each household was ordered to be present at the registration office and to sign a joint signature on behalf of all the entitled among the families.



3. Bogus Registration

Dai Dong Youth Branch at Un-Heum announced that they registered double or triple.

At No. 33 Registering office of Sindang-Dong, the signature of the registration is compulsive or forged.

B

3 May 1948

Memorandum to the United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission.

From: I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

Further to my memorandum of 30 April 1948, I wish to bring to your attention a selection of specific complaints submitted in a report by the Investigation Bureau of the Democratic National Front dated 19 April 1948 and received by the Secretariat of the Commission on 28 April. The list of complaints is annexed to this memorandum (Appendix III).

/APPENDIX III

APPENDIX III\*

COMPLAINTS CONCERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS (SELECTED FROM A  
REPORT FROM THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL FRONT)

I. Coercive Registration

1. On 4 April, in 3rd Thong of 2nd Street of Tai-wha Dong, three detectives and three policemen in official uniform visited the house of the chief of that Thong, and instructed coercive registration.
2. On 3 April, in 2nd Street of Uck-Dong, a team composed of three armed policemen, three members of Korean Youth League and two women accompanying the chief of Ban, called on each resident's home and threatened that "refusal of register shall be rewarded with the confiscation of food ration card".
3. On 4 April a team composed of three policemen, two members of Independence Youth called on Kim Kyung Ho who is living at 110th of 2nd Street of Tai-wha Dong and threatened him and intimidated him to register.
4. On 7 April Lee Ku Bum, Head of Chung-Pu Police Station and Shin, prosecutor, went around the registering offices within Chung Ku, urging a strenuous registration campaign and ordering the officers to submit a list of those who had refused to register.
5. At 9:00 a.m. on 4 April, three policemen and three Independence Youth terrorists intruded in to Mr. Kim Byung-ho's house. Mr. Kim is thirty-nine years old and lives at 110, 2nd Street, Tai-wha Dong and told him under threat to register.
6. The Chief of exercising section of Tong-Tai-Mum police station called on the chief of 7th Thong of Ukku Dong on 7 April and said "the not-registered shall be punished".
7. Detectives called on the house of Mrs. Okpun Lee, living at the 8th Ban of 2nd Thong of Shin-Sul Dong, and said to Mrs. Lee: "You shall be regarded as a red unless you register by 9th April".
8. Tai-Il Kim, living in Shin-Sul Dong, was severely beaten on the ground that he had refused to register, at the office of police detachment of Kosa-Dong on 10 April.

II. Registration compelled by Dong-offices  
Election Committees, and City Hall

1. Dong-chief of Chungpadong frequently visited the Ban-chief of 3rd-Ban, 1st Thong of Chungpadong 1st Street to force the registration.

2. 1st Ban-chief of 8th Thong in Chun-nong-dong visited every house in his area, threatened saying: "If you do not register, the Dong-office will punish you severely after investigating the list".
3. Mr. Han, who lives in 9th Ban, 10th Thong of To-hwa-dong in Mapo-Ku, was deprived of his ration card by the Ban-chief, who had not returned the card by 10 April.
4. The 3rd Ban-chief of 3rd Thong at Mukak-dong in Chung-Ku withheld the ration cards, and returned them only after the registration had been forcedly carried out.
5. The 7th Ban-chief of 3rd Thong of Sajik-dong withdrew the food ration card, held the Ban-meeting and declared: "If you refuse to register, the ration card shall not be returned", which caused disputes.
6. On 31 March, Ryu Yong-Kwang, 2nd Ban-chief of 1st Thong at Kahoe-dong withdrew the ration card, and threatened, saying: "They shall be returned only after registration is made".
7. On 3 April, 8th Ban-chief of 2nd Thong at Okchun-dong visited all houses there, saying: "If you do not register quickly, the situation will be unfavourable for you", and also threatened to treat the not-registered as "red" and to punish them.
8. The Dong office of Samchung-dong Bu sent the following notice to the not-registered in the name of the chairman of the Election Committee, and demanded to introduce the statements.

---

April 4, 1948. (Samchung-  
dongbu Dong  
office)

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
On the Registration of Voters.

Due to the fact that you are not registered by April 4, we herewith inform you that registration is open and that we want to register you quickly.

If you can not register owing to absence or illness, you should notify us of the reason by April 7. (The closing day is April 8).

Chairman of the Election  
Committee of 62nd Election  
District, Chong Ro A Ku.

---

### III. Compelled registration by Terrorist youth bodies

1. On 5 April, members of the Independence Youth in 4th st. of Myung-Ryum Dong compelled the Dong population to register and threatened, saying they had been dispatched from the detective section of the police.
2. At night about 11:30 p.m. on 7 April, more than ten members of a  
/certain

certain terrorist youth body intruded into Mr. Lyu's (doctor) at He-Wha Long and under threat warned him against refusal to register.

3. On 8 April, five members of the Kuk-Chung Youth and of the Dai Dong Youth intruded into Mr. Lee Cho Won's in 7th Ban, 9th Thong of Sin-Dang Dong and threatened to stay with him until he had registered. Though Mr. Lee reported to the police nothing was done about it and he was obliged to register.

4. On 5 April, in Myong-Ryon Dong 2nd Street, three members of the Kuk-Chung Youth intruded into every house and compelled the Dong population to register.

5. Mr. Kim Kwan-Sum in 2nd Ban, 6th Thong of A-Hyon Dong, was beaten by members of the Kuk-Chung Youth because of his refusal to register. Mr. Kim now is undergoing treatment for a wound in his waist.

6. Mr. Chang Sung Chu of Su-Dai-Mun Primary School, living at A-Hyong Dong of Ma-Po, was wounded by terrorists (five members of Dai Dong Youth) led by the chairman of the Youth Branch because he registered late. This Mr. Chang needs one week's medical treatment.

#### IV. Compelled registration in school

1. On 7 April, Changshin Primary School, Tong Tai Mun, was compelled to make sure of the registration to the pupil's families on the threat that the pupils whose parents had not yet registered were to be suspended from school.

2. In every school in Seoul on directives of Department of Education investigations were made whether the students' families had registered or not. Some schools distributed papers and forced to submit the registration certificates on 7 April. (For example: Maidong Primary School).

On 6 April, registration was urged from the platform at the meeting of the schoolboys' parents. Muhak Girls' High School let it be known that daughters of the not registered would be suspended from school. The superintendent of the same school forced the not-registered teachers to submit their resignations on the spot.

3. Maidong Primary School forced the second daughter of Lee Sanzo living in 5th Ban of 3rd Thong, Zung Dong, who had not registered to submit a certificate signed by Ban-chief by 4 April. Because of the non-registration the girl has been barred from school.

4. On 8 April, Sungshin Girls' High School forced the girls to present their families' registration number.

5. Donam Primary School investigated whether the pupils' parents had  
/registered

registered or not, and forced the boys to submit certificates signed by their parents (8 April).

6. Hungin School, at Shindang Dong, investigated forcibly the voter's name, age and date of registration of their families, on 8 April.

#### V. Registration by Fraud

1. On 11 April, the 11th Ban-chief of the 10th Thong in Bukkosa Dong finished the registration of the Ban-people without notice to voters.
2. On 10 April, almost all the registrations were made by a woman with several seals at the 12th registration office in Dong-dai-moon a district which is located in a private house.
3. Shin Zai Rok, living at 1st Ban, 8th Thong, Zun-Nong Dong, who had kept five ghost households with the consent of Thong and Ban chiefs, was allowed to register nine of his acquaintances on the name of all of his ghost voters.
4. Zang-chun-dan camp of war-refugees - No. 5, 2nd St. Zang-Chun-Dong - though 200 households in all, was registered as 350 households. The 150 newly fabricated households were registered at the 64th registration office, Central District.

C\*

5 May 1948

Memorandum to the United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission.

From: I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee.

Further to my memorandum of 30 April 1948, I wish to bring to your attention specific complaints received from:

1. YUN SOK KU, Candidate for National Assembly, 65 Sinyang Dong, Kunsan, Cholla-Namdo.
2. KIM KYONG BAE, Candidate from district "A", Yon-paik Gun, Kyonggi.

The complaint of Mr. Yun in abridged form is set out as Appendix IV and that of Mr. Kim as Appendix V.

#### APPENDIX IV

##### COMPLAINT FROM MR. YUN SOK KU, CANDIDATE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1 May 1948

1. At about midnight on 18 April, eight members of a certain organization attacked the Hai-bang Bookshop at 2nd Street, Chung-ang Ro, and tore the gate to pieces. The reason was that the proprietor, Kang Choul, had written an essay for the Kimsan News lauding Yun Sok Ku. The police and the C-in-C made only a formal investigation of the attack and no action was taken.
2. At about 5 p.m. on 24 April, Kim Chong Yop, head of the rice distribution centre of the 4th Ku of Hung-nam Dong was robbed of his possessions valued at about 110,000 won. That evening, during curfew, Mr. Kim recognized three persons in front of his house, taking off candidate Yun's photograph and campaign bulletins. They were Paik Chang Ki, son of Paik Nam Yong, another candidate who lives at #136, Nam-dong, Rim Myong Soo, brother of Rim Ki Ok who is one of the leaders of the Hankook Democratic Party living at #836, Oryong-dong and Yun-Tai-soo of #858, Oryong-dong. Mr. Kim and his neighbours ran after them and when caught they confessed their deeds before more than thirty people. They also admitted pasting other bulletins denouncing Yun Sok Ku. The contents of the bulletins were:

(a) He had forced farmers to supply rice and grain to the Japanese Government and had contributed money to the Japanese army. He must not be elected to the National Assembly.

(b) He should be eliminated from candidature because he had rendered faithful service to the cruel Japanese army.

Kim Chong Yop knew the addresses of the three persons and they were sent home at that time. After a while they returned and took off the bulletins which they had pasted. On the following day, the goods of which Kim had been robbed were left at the gate of Kim's home.



APPENDIX V

COMPLAINT FROM MR. KIM KYONG BAE, CANDIDATE FROM  
DISTRICT "A", YON-PAIK KUN, KYONG-GI

April 1948\*

1. Sometime in the latter part of March, Mr. An Tong Yon, Chief of Chong-tan police station, told Yi Do Soon, Vice-Chairman of the Yon-an Branch of the National Youth Organization and Sin Ka Son, Vice-Chairman of the Yon-an Branch, Dai Dong Youth Group, that he would give them ten tons of raw rubber each if they would actively campaign for Ham Sang Hoon.
2. Sometime in the latter part of March, the Pongso Branch of the Yon-an police station called a meeting of the Pongso inhabitants to receive the local police chief and Gun chief making their first visit to the Pongso Myun. At the meeting, the police chief and the director of the internal affairs section of the Gun office campaigned on behalf of Ham Sang Hoon who was present there.
3. An Dong Yon, Chief of the Chong-tan police station summoned Yun Kwang Soo, manager of the Yon-paik Irrigation Society and Ko Chae Dul and Song Kyong Il, contractors, to his office on 27 April. He told the latter two that there was something dishonest in the contract made with the irrigation society and that I (Kim Kyong Bae), former manager of the irrigation society, was responsible. He asked them to persuade me to cancel my candidature. If I did not comply, he said he would bring suit against me in court. Yun Kwang Soo, manager of the irrigation society, Yi Yong Bok, treasurer, and Nam Sang Yol, technician, told me that police chief An had said that if Ham Sang Hoon failed to be elected, a by-election would be held. He again told them to persuade me to cancel my candidature and should they fail to convince me, they should return to his office.
4. When police chief An visited Yong-mo Island with Ham Sang Hoon, he summoned the inhabitants and made a speech on behalf of Ham. When seven young persons met at Chong-tan and talked about me, they were arrested by the police on the charge of assembling without permission by the police. The police ordered them to support Ham and released them.
5. Police chief An of the Chong-tan police station gave orders to all branches of the police to tear off all handbills of mine. This was disclosed by a policeman named Kim to Cho Yong Whan, one of my supporters.
6. Mr. Chu, a policeman in the Chon-tae Branch of the Chong-tan police station distributed handbills for Ham Sang Hoon and gave handbills to village headmen to be distributed to the people.

D\*

7 May 1948

Memorandum to the United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary  
Commission

From: I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

Further to my memorandum of 30 April 1948,\*\* I wish to bring to your  
attention specific complaints received from:

1. CHOI Byung Wook, agent for candidate Im Hong Chai of electoral  
district B, Inchon (Address: #93, Song Hyon Dong, Inchon).
2. PAK Jung Jo, Secretary-General of the Democratic People's Front,  
North Kyong Sang Province.

The complaint of Mr. Choi is set out as Appendix VI and that of Mr. Pak,  
in abridged form, as Appendix VII.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/23/Add.2

\*\* See A above, page 38.

APPENDIX VI

COMPLAINT FROM MR. CHOI BYUNG WOOK, AGENT FOR MR. IM HONG CHAI CANDIDATE  
OF ELECTORAL DISTRICT "B", INCHON (ADDRESS: #93, SONG HYON DONG, INCHON)

1 May 1948

At about 9:00 p.m. on 30 April, an election campaigner for Im Hong Chai when passing through Poo Kai Dong with a bundle of handbills was suddenly accosted by a group of Dai Dong Youth Corps men of the Poo Pyung Branch. They asked, "What relation do you have with Im Hong Chai? How much are you paid for passing the handbills? Do you know of Im Hong Chai's personal background before the liberation?" They seized the handbills and gave the man a severe beating, injuring him seriously.

It is said that the voting marks for all the candidates as announced on campaign handbills were changed except that of candidate Kim Sok Ki. Im Hong Chai's voting mark, llll, was changed to ll or lllll and some were changed to candidate Kim Sok Ki's voting mark. Furthermore, Mr. Im was slandered as being a member of the communist party.

We believe that these activities cannot be ignored. After speedy investigation, those who campaigned illegally regardless of whether they are from the left, right or moderate political groups, should be strictly punished, so that there can be no more such activities.

I hereby enclose a copy of a letter I received. I am retaining the original as it may be useful as documentary evidence some day. Whenever the need for it arises, I will send it to you.

To: Im Kong Chai  
From: Kim Yong Hoon  
Date: 26 April 1948

I should like to advise you on a matter.

Having known you and worked with you, I have come to admire you very much and respect your personality and character.

Yesterday, I was in a certain section of the town going about my business when I noticed that members of the Youth Corps were mobilizing the people - old and young, men and women, massing them in the ground of the Dong Association office on the plea that an enlightenment lecture was about to take place under the auspices of the election promotion committee. Actually, however, the lecture turned out to be a campaign meeting for candidate Kim Sok Ki. His son, a teacher, presided over the meeting and various campaigners spoke. One of them was Song Taik Sun; the other I did not know. They told the gathering that Syngman Rhee, Lee Chung Chun and Mr. Zon of the Taihan (Great Korea) Labour Federation had issued orders that  
/the people

the people should follow this and that, although they may want to vote for another candidate, they should not violate Dr. Syngman Rhee's order.

Frankly, I have persuaded some voters to vote for you. However, if we must follow the above order, my efforts must be in vain. We cannot disobey Dr. Rhee's wishes, can we?

It is apparent that these lectures have been held in each Dong under the auspices of the election promotion committee. Therefore, it seems to me that everyone will follow Dr. Rhee's order.

If you wish to avoid dishonour, you must withdraw your candidacy and I hereby advise you to do so. Kim Yong Ju, Ha Sang Hoon and Ham Hyo Yong should also reflect upon the above-mentioned fact and withdraw their candidacies. I think the chairman of the election promotion committee is the leading campaigner for candidate Kim Sok Ki.

APPENDIX VII

COMPLAINT FROM MR. PAK JUNG JO, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S FRONT, NORTH KYONG-SANG PROVINCE

2 May 1948

1. On 4 April, Mr. Kim Chun Sik, resident of Hong San Dong 169 of Taegu city, was severely beaten by two policemen and two detectives and is now under detention at the Taegu Police Station. The reason for the attack was that he had refused to register.
2. On 17 April, Mr. Paik Sung-do, head of the 5th Ban of Tae An Dong, Taegu, was severely beaten by a detective of the Taegu police station named Choi Byong OK because the registration in his Ban had been "unsatisfactory". Every Ban leader of that Dong offered to resign in protest.

E\*

Memorandum to I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

From: United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission

10 May 1948

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 30 April 1948,\*\* in which you requested observations concerning certain complaints for the information of the members of the Main Committee. You particularly asked on 6 May that a reply be made by 12 May, the proposed date of the next Committee meeting.

Copies of these complaints have been transmitted to the Military Governor and the National Election Committee for appropriate action.

(a) Complaints received by the observation groups of the Commission, 19/23 April

Appendix I - The cases described have been referred to the proper authorities in the provinces concerned. It is understood that the situation (voting of fishermen) noted by Observation Group I has already been arranged satisfactorily.

Under Observation Group II (Chungju, Chung Chong Pukto) (iii): The case cited, although deplorable if the facts given are true, appears not to be directly concerned with the conduct of elections.

(b) Complaints addressed to the Commission in Seoul, 17/24 April

1. From the Supporting Society for the Establishment of Anti-Japanese Movements

See below under discussion of A/AC.19/SC.4/18 (Appendix II).

2. Korean Public Opinion Association

The matter has been referred to the department of the South Korea Interim Government concerned for a report.

3. From YI Sang Hun, Seoul

4. From LYU Chung Wha, Seoul

The facts in these cases will have to be determined.

5. From Civil Liberties Union

(i) The matter as presented does not appear to be related to the conduct of the forthcoming elections.

(ii) Mr. F. F. Engers, Assistant Secretary of the Temporary Commission, reported to me about ten days ago that an official of the Korean Civil Liberties Union had complained that a copy of the list of 3,140 persons recently pardoned by the Military Governor was refused him by a member of the South Korea Interim Government.

\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/25.

\*\* See A above, page 38.

I asked the name of this person involved and when informed by Mr. Engers, called the attention of the Military Governor to the case. He (the Military Governor) said that if the official, of the Korean Civil Liberties Union would care to see him personally see that a copy would be given him.

This was communicated to Mr. Engers. The official has not yet called on the Military Governor.

(iii) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

See remarks under paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

United Nations Document A/AC.19/SC.4/18: Report by the Supporting Society for the Establishment of Anti-Japanese Movements (Appendix II)

Most of the complaints listed allege force, threats and compulsion on the part of the police, youth groups, and election municipal officials in the registration of voters. I am sure that you will agree that many are too vague for further investigation or are so general that a number of trained investigators beyond our capabilities to furnish would be required to carry out the time consuming operation of endless interviews and investigation to arrive at the truth of the allegations.

In the first place, the good faith of the so-called "Supporting Society for the Establishment of Anti-Japanese Movements" is seriously doubted. This organization is either Communist inspired or dominated or both. As such the organization is allied with a group which not only refused to participate in the elections, but actually supports violence in an attempt to stop the elections. It would appear that the Communist National Democratic Front is using the complaining organization as a front in order to conceal the real object of these complaints.

The right not to vote is recognized, but on the other hand, patriotic and civic-minded citizens may associate themselves and put every legal pressure on their fellow citizens to register and to vote. "Threats, coercion and compulsion", of course, are not legal means, but it will probably be extremely difficult, if not actually impossible, to determine whether these cases involved "threats, coercion and compulsion", as alleged, with the limited means and time at our disposal. Many Koreans are extremely sensitive and a mere visit by patriotic citizens urging registration is quite likely to be interpreted as a "threat or coercion".

It will be noted that in this entire list there are only three or four cases of alleged beatings or attack, and even these alleged cases are admittedly minor ones.

/The record

The record of murder, violence, rioting and incitement to revolution of the Communists who are using this organization as a stooge and mouthpiece is in vivid contrast. That the Communists would resort to complaints to the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea of "forced" registration and later, of "fraudulent" elections has been anticipated. This is standard Communist practice when they are being fairly defeated at the election polls. p11 It is agreed that registration is a voluntary act under the South Korea law, yet I feel sure that you are aware that many countries have automatic registration and compulsory voting with fines provided for abstainers. This demonstrates the patriotic concept of the ballot, and personally I am delighted to see that civic-minded individuals in South Korea are zealously urging others to register and to vote. I do not condone threats, coercion and compulsion, of course, but I doubt seriously whether these elements were present illegally in the cases cited by the complainant.

The organization which made this complaint is associated, morally if not actually, with a planned campaign of murder, arson, sabotage, violence, rioting and even revolution in South Korea, in the interests of a foreign country. The purpose of the memorandum addressed to the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea is in furtherance of an effort to halt, disparage and even nullify the elections.

I would strongly recommend that in order to get at the real facts, the complaining organization be requested to answer the following questions:

1. Did the persons involved in the report register?
2. If not, did any of the threats materialize? Against whom?
3. What persons, if any, were deprived of ration cards because of failure to register?
4. What actual force, compulsion or coercion took place? Against whom (give names)?

In the meantime, I assure you that every effort is being made to determine the facts in these cases.

The statements above are preliminary in nature and will be amplified at the proper time when the validity of these complaints have been determined.



F\*

Memorandum to Mr. I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

From: The United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 3 May 1948\*\* with which you transmitted as an annex a number of specific complaints contained in a "Report by the Investigation Bureau of the Democratic National Front" and received by the Temporary Commission on 28 April.

The following is offered as a general preliminary observation:

The Communist dominated Democratic National Front is an avowed enemy of the forthcoming elections in the furtherance of the interests of a foreign country. It does not want open, honest, fair elections conducted in the traditions of democratic governments. It will not take part in the elections simply because it has no chance of victory. It can be expected, therefore, that this organization, in addition to its condoning, if not actual participation in, a ruthless campaign of murder and intimidation in South Korea, will attempt to gain sympathy by complaints of force, coercion and compulsion during registration.

This organization, you may be sure, will also cry that the forthcoming elections were "fraudulent" just as defeated communists have done everywhere before.

A lawful, vigorous, and patriotic campaign has been conducted in South Korea to get every citizen registered. (As a matter of fact, registration in many countries is automatic and balloting is compulsory in some countries represented on the Commission).

I do not condone attacks, threats or force whether during elections or not, but I think that investigation will prove that many of these cases grew out of a praiseworthy, civic-minded campaign to get all citizens to register. I believe you will agree as a principle, that those who refuse to assume the duties and responsibilities of citizens, should then have no voice in criticizing the Government that will be established. This principle could well be extended to the conduct of elections.

However, I wish to assure you that the cases you have brought to my attention will be investigated insofar as this is possible. You will be informed of the results of this investigation at the earliest possible moment.

Copies of the annex have been submitted to the Military Governor and the National Election Committee for appropriate action.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/25/Add.1

\*\* See B above, page 58.

G\*

Memorandum to Mr. I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

From: The United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission

I acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 5 May 1948\*\* with which you transmitted copies of specific complaints of Mr. YUN Sok Ku, candidate for the National Assembly, of Cholla Namdo, and Mr. KIM Kyong Bae, candidate from Kyonggi-do.

I have brought these complaints to the attention of the authorities and the National Election Committee for appropriate action.

Both cases involve disputes and rivalries between candidates with possible bribery and corruption alleged in the case of Mr. KIM.

If the facts in these reports are true, they could well be used as evidence to invalidate the election of their rivals under Section 44 of the Election Law. However, I note in this connection that in the case of Mr. YUN that restitution has been done at least in some degree.

Possibly the Commission may wish to call the attention of the two candidates to the legal factors involved and their rights in this connection.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/25/Add.1

\*\* See C above, page 63.

H\*

Memorandum to Mr. I.F.G. Milner, Secretary, Main Committee

From: The United States Liaison Officer to the Temporary Commission

I acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 7 May 1948\*\* enclosing document A/AC.19/SC.4/23/Add.2 (with Annexes A and B) involving complaints of Mr. CHOI Byung Wook, campaign worker for Mr. IM Hong Chai, of Kyonggi-do, and Mr. PAK Jung Jo, Secretary-General of the Democratic People's (National) Front of Kyong Sang Pukto.

The complaints have been transmitted to the Military Governor and the National Election Committee for their appropriate action.

The case of Mr. CHOI Byung Wook appears to involve campaign rivalry and alleged improper interference of youth groups. While the facts have not yet been established, I do consider that Mr. IM Yong Chai, in whose interests Mr. CHOI was campaigning, should be informed of his rights under Section 44 of the Election Law (SRIG Ordinance No. 175) and thought that perhaps the Commission might want to so inform him in replying to his complaint.

The cases of alleged forced registration and beatings cited by Mr. PAK will have to be investigated before a reply can be made.

As soon as facts are available in the matters which have been brought to my attention, I shall communicate with you at the earliest possible moment.

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\* Document A/AC.19/SC.4/25/Add.1

\*\* See D above, page 66.