

7 Jul 51
DD~~TOP SECRET~~"C" KOREA. [redacted] Comments on Rhee's Attitude Towards
Cease-Fire. [redacted]

[redacted] reports that President Rhee heads the group of responsible persons arousing public opinion against a cease-fire at the 38th Parallel. In reply to a Commission expression of opinion that after having so inflamed public opinion, the government will find it difficult to readjust its position on conclusion of a cease-fire, Rhee repeatedly stated "they (the Korean people) shall not accept a cease-fire." [redacted] Rhee sees the situation clearly but assumes an extremist attitude from fear the National Assembly will be more extreme. The restraint urged by ranking US officials has been without apparent results. [redacted] "after an initial disappointment, spirits will adjust themselves to the situation on condition that there are some reasonable guarantees against renewed aggression." ([redacted] 6 July 51). COMMENT: With political rivalry in South Korea placing a premium on nationalistic statements, the Government has placed itself in a position from which extrication following a cease-fire will bring a loss of prestige. [redacted] reports that the ROK Cabinet has gone to such lengths as to consider running anti-cess-fire advertisements in US newspapers.

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