



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

H. J. / Sec

8 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is a copy of a cable just received from our

..... which I thought you would find entertaining.

..... the source of the information,

..... with whom

..... We take the reference to possible negotiations between the ROK and the Soviet Union as a rather typical Rhee type of reaction and doubt whether any such threat will turn up in the final Rhee letter as you receive it.

This message has been shown to our Ambassador in Seoul, to General Taylor, and will also be shown to General Hull in Tokyo. Otherwise no distribution has been made as we wish to carefully protect and develop the source of this intelligence.



Allen W. Dulles
Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

cc: The Secretary of State
Admiral Radford

DECLASSIFIED
with deletions
Authority RAC review
By AKS 2/11/2002
NLE Date _____

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY~~TOP SECRET~~

1. MORNING 7 JAN NEW ROK ADVISOR, KING HELPED PRESIDENT RHEE COMPLETE THIRD AND RHEE SAID LAST DRAFT OF LETTER TO EISENHOWER IN REPLY EISENHOWER'S LETTER OF 2 JANUARY. KING DISCUSSED LETTER IN GENERAL TERMS BUT SAID IT WAS VERY FIRM LETTER AND CONTAINED FOLLOWING:

A. RHEE CANNOT PROMISE TAKE NO UNILATERAL ACTION. MAY BE FORCED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IF U.S. DOES NOT SUPPORT ROK. RHEE REALIZES UNIFICATION FIGHT MAY END UP AS COMMUNIST UNIFICATION.

B. RHEE - EISENHOWER CORRESPONDENCE TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL BUT RHEE RESERVES RIGHT TO USE ANY AVAILABLE MEDIA TO STATE POLICIES.

C. KING EMPHASIZED THAT RHEE SEEMED CONVEY THOUGHT THAT UNILATERAL ACTION MIGHT COMPRISE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ROK AND SOVIET UNION.

2. AFTERNOON 7 JAN RHEE AND KING REVIEWED LETTER AGAIN. KING SAID "WERE I EISENHOWER AND GOT THIS LETTER I WOULD WONDER 'IS THAT OLD METHODIST PLAYING POKER WITH ME? IS HE BLUFFING? SHALL I CALL HIS BLUFF?'"

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Authority NLE 76-76, #11By ARK NLE DATE 11/3/76~~TOP SECRET~~

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3. RHEE'S EXPRESSION DIDN'T CHANGE, NEITHER DID HE GET ANGRY. SO KING WENT ON: "MR. PRESIDENT, WOULDN'T IT BE A GOOD IDEA, SERIOUSLY, TO HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE IN CASE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER DOESN'T RESPOND TO THIS LETTER? FOR INSTANCE IF YOU ATTACK WILL YOU HAVE ENOUGH AMMUNITION TO SUSTAIN AN OFFENSIVE?"

4. RHEE REPLIED: "THAT'S JUST IT. THEY'RE RATIONING US VERY TIGHTLY NOW. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF A STOCKPILE TO BE OF ANY CONSEQUENCE AT THE MOMENT."

5. "WELL THEN," ANSWERED KING, "HOW ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?"



6. RHEE'S CONSIDERED REPLY TO THIS WAS THAT HIS NEXT PROPOSAL COULD BE FOR THE TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OF "15 OR 20 MORE" ROK DIVISIONS, AND BY IMPLICATION ONLY, THE CONTINUED SUPPLYING OF THEM.

7. "THEN", SAID RHEE, "WE COULD LET ALL FOREIGN TROOPS LEAVE OUR SOIL ABOUT 6 MONTHS LATER AND WE COULD HANDLE THE SITUATION."

8. KING EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THIS IS THE ACE RHEE IS HOLDING UP HIS SLEEVE.

9. KING AND RHEE ALSO DISCUSSED RECENT VISIT RHEE TO FORMOSA. RHEE INDICATED HE AND CHIANG KAI-SHEK HAD DISCUSSED, BUT HE DID NOT SAY THEY HAD AGREED UPON, A MOVE WHEREBY IF ROK MOVES NORTH, CHIANG WOULD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LAUNCH DIVERSIONARY ATTACK ON THE CHINESE MAINLAND. THIS ACTION, BOTH RHEE AND CHIANG BELIEVE, WOULD CAUSE CHINESE COMMUNISTS TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS, OR A PORTION OF THEM, FROM KOREAN FRONT. (KING REPORTED THIS PHASE OF DISCUSSION GREW OUT OF TALK ON AMMUNITION SUPPLY.)

10. RHEE SAID THAT HE AND CHIANG WERE NOT TOO HOPEFUL OF THE SUCCESS OF SUCH A STRATEGY BECAUSE IT HAD TO BE BASED ON PROMISE OF SUSTAINED SUPPLIES FROM U. S., AND SUCH ASSURANCE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN RHEE BY U. S.



11. KING IS OF THE FIRM OPINION THAT RHEE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING CHINESE NATIONALIST TROOPS IN KOREA. RHEE'S ATTITUDE IS, "LET THE CHINESE FIGHT THEIR WARS IN CHINA."