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6. Japan unable to grant equal rights to UN forces: Foreign Minister Okazaki told Ambassador Murphy that public and Diet opposition will make it difficult, if not impossible, to grant UN forces in Japan the same rights as American forces operating under the security treaty. He said that parliamentary defeat for the proposed UN agreement was certain if the government publicly relinquished its jurisdiction in cases involving violation of Japanese law, although in practice Japan would not exercise that right. Additionally, Diet sentiment was such that the government had no chance of obtaining money to support the UN forces.

Murphy is convinced that the Japanese Government is eager to cooperate with the UN, but is restricted by the solid opposition. (C Tokyo 245, 24 May 52)

Comment: The Commonwealth governments are highly critical of Japan's unwillingness to accept any financial obligation for the support of non-US troops based in or sojourning in Japan, as well as its desire to retain criminal jurisdiction over UN forces. The government has been severely attacked by its political opposition on these points under the US-Japan security treaty; it fears that extending similar privileges to non-US forces will have serious domestic repercussions.

7. Chinese take initiative from North Koreans at Panmunjom: [redacted] the Chinese Communists have taken the initiative from the North Korean delegation in conducting the Panmunjom talks, and that Nam Il is now merely their spokesman. Chinese Communist delegates are in constant communication with Soviet political advisers.

The Koreans are said to have abandoned their demand for the withdrawal of Chinese "volunteers" along with that of all non-Korean UN troops.

The Chinese reportedly believe that a Soviet "political feint" directed at Britain, France, India, and Japan will impel some favorable "change in American plans." [redacted]

Comment: Peiping's views are presumed to determine the North Korean line in the talks, because the over-all military position in Korea depends upon Peiping's willingness to continue its commitment.

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Communist China has indicated an intention to hold its "volunteers" in Korea at least until all UN forces are withdrawn.



9. Rhee uses dictatorial measures against opposition: US Embassy Pusan reports that, since early on 25 May, President Rhee has taken a series of high-handed actions against the political opposition. Four opposition members of the Assembly have been arrested while 15 or 16 others are in hiding. The imposition of martial law by the ROK Military Police has been employed as an excuse for this action. Some 44 Assemblymen were held incommunicado by the Military Police on 26 May. Recently appointed Prime Minister Chang, finding his telephone wires cut and himself under virtual arrest, has resigned.

The UN Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation in Korea called on Rhee on 26 May and expressed shock at this series of events. The President was unimpressed. The US Embassy comments that the President appears to be operating on the basis that the UN and the United States will not intervene and will sit by and watch the demise of democratic government in Korea. (S Pusan 1160, 26 May; S Pusan 1164, 26 May; S Pusan 1163, 27 May 52)

10. First Communist admission of Chinese air operations over Korea: The Communist newspaper Ta Kung Pao in Hong Kong claimed on 21 May that CCAF's hero Chang Chi-hui had shot down two US aircraft over North Korea on 10 February. The reporting agency comments that this news story is the first Chinese Communist claim that their "volunteers" are flying MIG-15's in combat in North Korea, a fact accepted by most observers for months. (S Hong Kong 3117, Joint Weeka 21, 23 May 52)

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Comment: It is not known how many of the estimated 350 to 500 jets in the Manchurian-Korean border area are piloted by either Chinese, Russians, or North Koreans. This is the first Communist publicity indicating the nationality of the pilots of any enemy jets.

11. American official doubts Peiping will compromise on POW issue: The American Consul General in Hong Kong notes increasing propaganda coverage of the POW issue in the Chinese Communist press and an adamant stand on what Peiping describes as the UN's "forcible retention" of POW's.

The American official, recalling Indian Ambassador Panikkar's prediction in early 1952 that the POW issue would be the most difficult of all to solve, remarks that it is "difficult to conceive" of Peiping backing down on this point. (S Hong Kong 3117, 23 May 52)

Comment: The Communist negotiators do not appear convinced that the UN Command will not compromise on the POW issue. There is thus insufficient evidence to indicate whether the Communists will allow the talks to founder on this issue.

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