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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
17 June 1953

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BRIGGS SAYS RHEE PREPARING TO MODIFY TRUCE POSITION

Ambassador Briggs reports that President Rhee may be preparing to shift his position from denouncing the armistice to regarding it as an instrument forced on South Korea by the United States. This will enable him to hold the American government responsible for subsequent developments which fail to satisfy South Korea.

While Rhee's ultimate intentions remain in doubt, he told General Clark again on 12 June that he would consult with the UN in advance of any unilateral South Korean action. Briggs adds that although Rhee is sincerely opposed to the armistice, he will not attempt a northward march in the final showdown, and that the recent demonstrations have not made it impossible for him to accept the truce.

JCS review(s) completed.

State Department review completed

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