

THE ECONOMIST
OF LONDON

MAY 14, 1964

More from Seoul

A correspondent in Seoul enables us to go deeper into South Korea's continuing political crisis, discussed in FOREIGN REPORT on April 30th. Since then the internal feuding in the Democratic Republican party that we reported has broken into the open with the replacement of the then prime minister, Mr. Choi Du Sun, by the former foreign minister, General Chung Il Kwon, and the removal of most of the largely independent, non-party cabinet. The change followed demands for greater party control of the cabinet, and has been seen as a victory for the party chairman, Mr. Kim Jong Pil. But the new prime minister is not one of Kim's men.

Though Korean official sources reject the suggestion of any foreign policy difference between President Park and General Chung (see our footnote of April 30th) there are grounds for thinking that if the new prime minister can effectively influence foreign policy it will be in the direction of a more cautious attitude toward Japan, though the target of normalisation of relations remains. It cannot be assumed that the internal power struggle is in any way over.

According to our correspondent, the key to the situation is the emergence of a new nationalist movement, the *Kookook Yunhap Choonsun* (national salvation united front) known in abbreviation as the Kooyunsun. It is sponsored by the North Koreans and partly based among Korean exiles in Japan, but has growing support—as the government knows—in South Korea.

The Kooyunsun bases its appeal on national unity against a renewal of Japanese domination through the medium of the American forces. Its propaganda is cautious: it does not demand a commitment to socialism or hostility to Japan, saying it would welcome Japanese, or any other, investment on equitable terms, though it particularly hails the North Korean offer of assistance made on March 27th. In the long term, its leaders believe, the Americans will abandon their support for President Park's régime or any other devoted to anti-communism, and opt for neutralisation as the best way out.

The Kooyunsun's immediate aims—interrupting the talks with Japan, splitting the Democratic Republican party, and breaking up the Central Intelligence Agency—have been achieved through the student riots. According to our informant:

1. The student riots were helped on their way by ample Kooyunsun finance from its sources outside South Korea, as well as by contributions from local black marketeers fearing that "normalisation" would mean Japanese domination of the black market.
2. The self-styled "non-mainstream" faction of the DRP headed by the deputy speaker of the national assembly, Mr. Chang Kyung Soon, is suspected by its opponents, such as Mr. Kim, of links with the Kooyunsun. These links—if they exist—could extend high into the new cabinet.
3. One reason, apart from the student demands, for announcing that the Central Intelligence Agency would be drastically cut down was that it

Continued