

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	"Boy Scout" Organization near Ongjin, North Korea	DATE DISTR.	17 March 1954	
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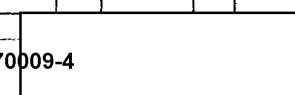


- From mid-June 1953 to 3 January 1954 an organization of "Boy Scouts" was observed in the Ongjin (N 37-56, E 125-22) (YC-0801) area, with headquarters in a police barracks at Naengjong-ni (YC-1101), in tunnels dug into a hill. The scouts, who appeared to be between the ages of 15 and 18 years, were observed in the Sudaesan (YC-0804) area and at a police substation in Ongjin. They usually wore North Korean army (NKA) uniforms without shoulder boards or insignia. They wore the standard NKA cap with a red star, and either white or Chinese Communist olive-drab sneakers. The squad and platoon leaders wore North Korean police officers uniforms. The scouts were armed with United States carbines and M-1 rifles, Soviet PPSH's, and Mossin-Nagant rifles and carbines. Few of these scouts were observed prior to the armistice.¹
- Membership in the organization was voluntary. North Korean police spotted potential members and sent trusted scouts to recruit them. Membership consisted only of boys whose fathers or close relatives were loyal Communists, such as Labor Party members, model policemen, etc., or boys who had lost their parents or family during the war. The police controlled, trained, supervised, and directed the organization. Both basic military training and "detective training"² were given.
- To maintain local security in support of the police, the scouts, in five or six-man teams, patrolled villages twice daily, once in the daytime, once at night.³ Night patrols usually started at 8 or 9 p.m. They did guard duty at important road junctions and at entrances to towns, with one man on duty at any given time and the other 4 or 5 on call. Police going out to village police substations were usually accompanied by four or five of the scouts. The boys were very alert at all times.⁴ If they observed anyone who appeared suspicious, they asked him many questions. If there was the slightest reason to be dissatisfied with the answers, the boys took the offender to a police station for more thorough questioning. It was rumored that the scouts had captured three South Korean agents in early August 1953 at Songjong-ni, that the agents were tried in court at Naengjong-ni, and were sentenced to 11, 13, and 16 years imprisonment. It was

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also rumored that the scouts had captured three South Korean agents in July 1953 at Tanch'on-ni and three more at Changdon-ni near Chayang (YC-1808).

25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. According to an inhabitant of Songjŏng-ni (YB-0899), the strength of the organization after the cease-fire was about 70 or 80, and membership was to be increased gradually.

25X1 [redacted] Comment. Presumably the 70 or 80 were in Ongjin-gun.

25X1 [redacted] Comments

2. According to a local inhabitant, regular primary and middle school education was given in the barracks, under police supervision. Though primary and middle schools had compulsory boys' organizations, the "Boy Scouts" were not connected with them.
3. According to a local inhabitant, occasionally a team consisted of 10 or 11 boys. Sometimes the daylight patrol was not made.
4. Public attitude toward the boys was unfavorable because they made it a practice to eavesdrop on private conversations while on their night patrols.

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