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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China-Korea
SUBJECT Political Information: Proposed Activities of RHEE Syng-man
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SUPPLEMENT



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[REDACTED] note: RHEE Syng-man's bid for power includes, among others, the following two objectives: the dissolution of the Korean Provisional Government Representative Group in Manchuria and the revival of the Korean Restoration Army in Korea.)

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1. The Korean Provisional Government Representative Group, formed for the stated purpose of protecting the general welfare, property and interests of Koreans residing in China and Manchuria, has incurred the animosity of Koreans everywhere because of its treatment of Koreans in Manchuria and its failure to aid in any appreciable way the Koreans in other parts of China. For instance, after the withdrawal of Chinese Communist forces from the Mukden-Changchun area, members of the KPRG attached to NECC worked with Chinese Nationalists in a scheme by which the KPRG members accused wealthy Koreans of being collaborators with the Chinese Communists, whereupon the Nationalist authorities arrested them. On payment of a "ransom", the victims were released.
2. Chief of the KPRG during this time was PAK Nam-pa (朴南波) (also known as POKU Tseng-ill (朴正一)). Chief representative in Nanking was General LEE Chong-chon (李青天), who was commander of the Korean Restoration Army in Chungking and Minister of War of the Korean Provisional Government before it was removed to South Korea in 1946. PAK and LEE received large shares of the Chinese Government allotment for the maintenance of the KPRG and the subsequent KPRG. For this reason, PAK and LEE opposed RHEE's original plan to dissolve the KPRG entirely. A compromise has apparently been reached whereby the KPRG will be disbanded only in Manchuria, since that is the area in which the Group is in worst repute. LEE has now agreed to accompany RHEE to Korea and become chief of the proposed new Korean Restoration Army.
3. RHEE's reasons for reviving the KRA are threefold:
 - a. RHEE must offset the influence of the Korean National Defense Corps, since its leaders do not favor him.
 - b. He must be able to point to a force which is capable of defeating the North Korean Communists after the withdrawal of the Soviet Occupation forces.
 - c. He needs the backing of such a force to gain the respect of the American Military Government in South Korea, on the support of which his success is dependent.

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The new KRA is to be recruited mainly from LEE Bum-suk's (李範錫) Korean Restoration Youth Group, reportedly 450,000 [?] strong, and from KIM Koo's Korean Democratic Party.

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4. Opposed to RHEE is a group of men made up of LU Dong-yol (柳東烈), present chief of the KNDC and commander of the KRA in 1919 (Shanghai Note: known as the Korean Independence Army then); KIM Kyu Sik (金奎植), vice-president of the KFC in August 1944; LYUH Woon Hyung (呂運亨), chief of the Korean Communist Party in Nanking in 1919, now in Seoul and popular among young Koreans; and WANG Il-so (王逸曙) [See SC-5275 A for report on WANG.]

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