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INFORMATION REPORT

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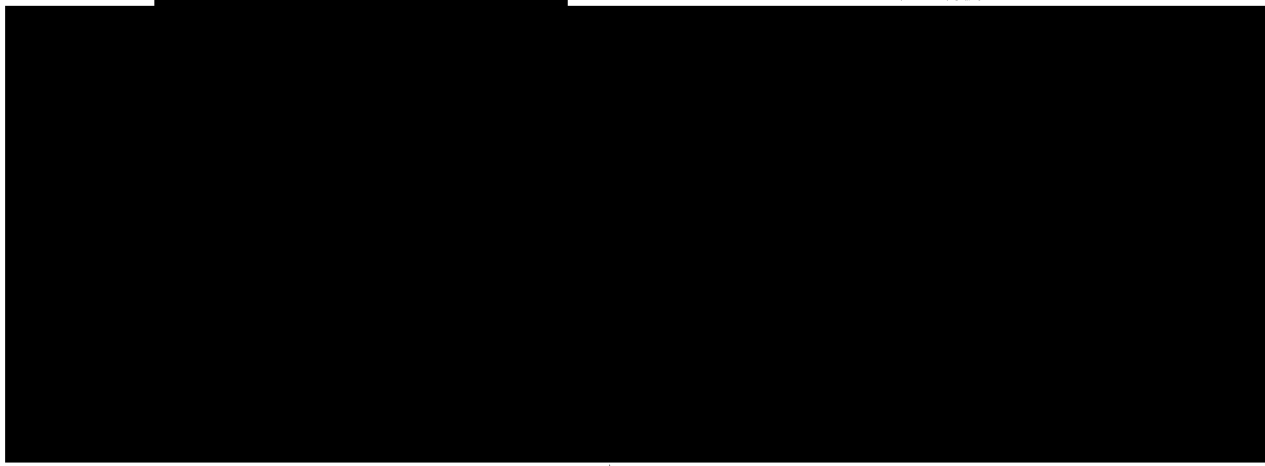
COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT North Korean Pressure on Anti-Communist Personnel

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PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. A number of residents of the village of Oechon-ni (外村里), Chorwon-myon (approximately 127-10, 38-16), Chorwon County engaged in interzonal business after the war and frequently visited South Korea. Except for a few farmers in the area, most of the local population are members of the Korean Democratic Party and sympathetic towards South Korea. Leaders of a local group are YI Kwang-chin (李光鎮), owner of the Tongkwang (東光) Pharmacy in Oechon-ni, and YI Su-uk (李洙郁). These and other villagers are in the habit of meeting at the house of KANG Su-ik (姜守益) to listen to radio broadcasts from South Korea.

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2. [redacted] this group of listeners heard a broadcast that the South Korean army intended to conquer North Korea in 1950; the listeners entered into a general and vehement discussion of what they would do against the North Korean government and what members of the North Korean Labor Party they would liquidate when the invasion occurred. Although the group was not aware of the fact, it was suspected because of the Democratic Party activities of the two leaders, YI Kwang-chin and YI Su-uk. KANG Su-ik had been arrested in 1947 for visiting South Korea and had been released only on condition that he report on Democratic Party activities in his village. As a result of his reports, YI Kwang-chin, YI Su-uk and 40 other local citizens were arrested [redacted] by the Chorwon State Security office.

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3. The North Korean government has promised the Soviet government a large number of laborers for work in the USSR. The laborers, both men and women, are to be selected from the families of persons who have migrated to South Korea. [redacted]

4. Members of the North Korean Labor Party in each city, town, village, and county are preparing detailed plans of their respective localities, showing all buildings and houses. The purpose of this survey is to designate all households

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containing persons with anti-Communist sentiments and all households which formerly contained persons who have gone to South Korea. Special measures for dealing with South Korean sympathizers have been planned on the basis of this survey.

5. The removal from public offices of former employees of the Japanese government is continuing in North Korea.** Even though some persons who had Japanese connections appear to be serving satisfactorily, they are dismissed without explanation. Discharges of this type in December 1949 include:

CHI In-kyu (池寅奎), a Korean who speaks fluent Russian, and was employed in the Wonsan branch office of the Korean-Russian Marine Transportation Company since the end of the war. He was discharged when it was discovered that he had worked for the Labor Association during the Japanese regime.

HAN Hang-sok (韓恒錫), a teacher in the Tong Hae (東海) Middle School, who was removed from his job because he had worked as an administrative official in Chientao Province.

PAK Tong-ch'ol (朴東喆), Chief Secretary, and twelve other members of the Yonchon (127-04, 38-06) County People's Committee who were removed from their jobs.

More than 20 employees of the Kangwon Province People's Committee and the Wonsan People's Committee.

* Comment. Reports of labor conscription are general, but the numbers of conscripts are always excessive. In this case, a refugee from conscription reported that 300,000 laborers were to be sent to the USSR by the end of February.

* Comment. For previous reports on this subject.

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