

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO

FKBA- 8732

To Chief of Station, []
 Chief, Far East Division

FROM Chief of Station, []

Information on OM Yo-sop

HEADQUARTERS FILE NO

DATE
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RE 431 (CHECK ONE)

MARKED FOR INDEXING

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FYT
PJTA-4924, 13 January 1965

1. We appreciate having received reference. We too are somewhat confused by the report since, as you stated, the amount of money is relatively insignificant, and from what we have learned here OM's political influence, at least within the present ROK Government, is not particularly high. He would like people to believe that it is. We have checked and learned that one of the FBIHQ officers here sees OM every few months. This officer said that OM does not appear to enjoy any particular influence. He did say that OM spends most of his time at their meetings in discussing, and apparently placing some credence in, most of the wild political rumors which are so much a part of the local political scene. OM is Director of the Korea Institute of International and National Affairs which is just another of the many similar organizations here. He does occasional editorial writing for the *Taean Ilbo*, a newspaper which is generally considered to be pro-government.

2. We also talked about OM with [] at a 3 February meeting. [] said that OM is considered to be very close to the opposition Democratic Party. OM is a member of President PAK's unofficial Foreign Policy Advisory Committee, a group of ex-officials and ex-political leaders who would like to have more influence than they presently enjoy with this ROK Government. It is an ineffectual organization which has no influence on foreign policy. [] characterized OM as "a devout Christian and a crook". Whether or not these are mutually exclusive descriptions we will not comment on here. Suffice it to say, it would appear from what we have learned that OM does not appear to enjoy very considerable influence on political matters or on matters dealing with foreign policy. The question still arises, however, as to why he was given the money in the first place. He is a very smooth operator and if it were anyone but KODAMA Yoshio who gave him the money we would be inclined to feel that OM had talked someone into giving him money in return for which he may have promised to do what he could to push ROK-Japan normalization. We would imagine that KODAMA and his group, however, are quite well informed on who is who on the ROK political scene. We will keep you informed if we should learn more about OM and his doings.

3. Of passing interest may be the fact that [] went to Seoul with NACHI Hiroyuki in Japan. [] said that ever in those days NACHI was known as a good man with a knife - particularly the very effective long Japanese dagger.

8 February 1965

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