

May 1954

Draft, Syngman Rhee to General John E.Hull

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Summary:

Request that General John E. Hull allow for the circulation of the newspaper "Korean Republic" among American military personnel.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan



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Draft of letter for President's signature

General John E. Hull
 APO 500 (check this)
 c/o Postmaster
 San Francisco, Calif.

My dear General Taylor:

My Dear General Hull:

I am writing to you in the hope that you can use your influence to solve a problem that is creating ~~friction~~ ^{friction} ~~between our two Governments~~ ^{between our two Governments}.

As you probably know, the Korean Information ~~Service~~ ^{Service}, Inc., has been publishing since last Aug. 15 a newspaper in English called the Korean Republic. While not an organ of the Government, this newspaper reflects official policy and is ~~an excellent~~ a medium of record for important Government pronouncements.

At present the paper, usually four pages, is published every day except Sunday. When new equipment arrives, it will be expanded in size and will be published seven days a week.

We believe that it is extremely important that the paper be made available to as many Americans as it is possible to reach. From its columns, officers, men, and civilians can get an idea of the trends of Korean thinking, and at the same time will have access to the news of the world that bears on international relations in the Far East.

The Korean Republic's policy is pro-Korea, pro-United States, and pro-Free World. It has been constructively critical of Korea, the United States, and ~~many~~ of the friends of both. But we believe that ~~it will~~ ^{it will} achieve no useful purpose unless it is critical when criticism seems to be warranted. As with your own great press, we view it as the conscience of both people and government. the paper

However, some of the military authorities in Korea have taken it upon themselves to try to keep the paper away from personnel. It has been barred from the Seoul City Post Exchange for several months, for example, and all our intercessions have been in vain. The paper formerly was distributed free from a stand inside the PX, and I would appreciate a resumption of that practice.

We have also asked, without success, for some assistance in getting the paper to various military and civilian installations throughout Korea. We wish that we could do this ourselves, but as you well know, under existing circumstances we lack the distribution facilities.

Certainly we do not ask you to set up any special distribution, nor to do anything that would increase the cost of maintaining American forces in Korea. But we hope that you can find some way of utilizing existing facilities ~~(such as)~~ ^(such as) those for distributing Stars and Stripes, for instance) to get the Korean Republic to more readers and thereby to improve still further the fine relations between our two countries.

We know already that the paper is wanted. Many military installations in the Seoul area ~~knowingly~~ pick up copies at the Korean Information Service, Inc., when they can.



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Anything that you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. I should very much like to know what can be done, so that the Korean Information Service, Inc., can cooperate fully.

With best personal wishes and expressions of thanks for your assistance, ~~Sincerely~~

Yours
Most sincerely,
↑