

Syngman Rhee Dies an Exile From Land He Freed

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

weak to travel. The fatal series of strokes had started.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday night at the Korean Christian Church in Honolulu, which Dr. Rhee helped found during an earlier period of exile. Dr. Rhee's body then will be flown to Seoul, where a burial service will be held at the National Cemetery of the Republic of Korea, on the south bank of the Han River. Mrs. Rhee and the Rhee's son will accompany the body.

Headed First Free Government

Dr. Rhee headed the first free government in the 4,000-year history of his people. He lived to see the liberation of Korea from Japanese control, to prepare her to resist impending attack by Russian-sponsored Communist forces, and to lead her in withstanding attack until help came.

His name was removed from the political blacklist of his country only when he appeared mortally ill. The action of the South Korean Cabinet cited the fact that Dr. Rhee had long fought for Korean independence from Japan and, indeed, any survival of free institutions in Korea must be credited to his introduction of such institutions in his earlier liberal period.

It was said of him that he was a prophet without honor abroad. From 1905 to 1943, he fought with the small tools of the exiled leader for Western recognition of Japan's aggressive designs in Asia. In August, 1948, he took the oath of office as President of the Republic of Korea.

Often, Dr. Rhee's intense convictions antagonized the allies he had won by his valiance. During and after the armistice talks that ended the three-year war in Korea, the chunky Korean President demanded that hostilities be resumed and that United Nations forces strike deep into North Korea.

Urged a Preventive War

Even while visiting the United States in 1954 as an honored guest, he advised a joint session of Congress that it consider joining non-Communist Asians in a full-scale war against Communist China.

Syngman Rhee (in traditional Korean, Lee Sung Man) was born in Whanghae Province, Korea, on March 26, 1875. He was the only son of Lee Kyung Sun and Lee Kim Hai and a descendant, through his father, of the Yi dynastic rulers who controlled Korea from 1392 to 1910. Yi is another form of the name Lee, or Rhee.

It was his father's wish that he adhere to traditions of the period and prepare, through classical education, for government service and subsequent high position. To the finest Chinese teachers of the period he repaired to steep himself in philosophy and calligraphy.

At the end of this preparation, he won first place in the annual national examinations held in the court at Seoul. However, under the influence of the first Christian missionaries in Korea, he felt the need of a knowledge of English. He enrolled in the Pai Hai Methodist Mission school in Seoul. It was there that word of democracy—government by choice of the people—first reached his ears.

Joined Democratic Group

To the dismay of his scholarly father he joined the Independence Club, a group of young men who hoped to liberalize the court and who demanded democratic reforms within the ancient Korean monarchy. They demanded, as well, elimination of the growing Japanese in-



Syngman Rhee with former President Harry S. Truman during visit to Truman home in Independence, Mo., in 1954. He thanked Mr. Truman for U.S. aid. Mrs. Rhee is with them.

by Imperial Japan's representatives in Seoul. Dr. Rhee was forced to flee. He went to Hawaii, where he founded the Korean Methodist Church and the Korean Christian Institute.

He maintained liaison with the "mancei" or Independence movement in Korea, of which he was one of the inspirers. During the Korean passive-resistance movement, Dr. Rhee emerged as the movement's voice outside his country. At secret sessions held in Seoul on March 1, 1919, by the 19 Korean principals of the movement, Dr. Rhee was elected President of the Korean Provisional Government in Exile.

Joining with others already in exile in China, Dr. Rhee went to Shanghai in 1920 and helped to organize the guerrilla movement against the Japanese, which was to harass their occupation of Korea until the day of surrender, Aug. 15, 1945.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rhee sought international recognition of the exiled group. He tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Versailles Peace Conference to hear Korea's case. He fought during the years of peace between the two world wars to have Western democracies take up the cause of Korean independence in the League of Nations and in international conferences.

Meantime, he fought against Japanese propaganda campaigns to persuade the world that Korea was not worth discussing. In 1941 he relinquished the presidency of the exiled group to the late Kim Koo, who was in China and became chairman of the Korean Commission in Washington.

Guerrillas Denied Help

With Japan and the United States at war, Dr. Rhee campaigned in the United States for arms aid for Korean guerrillas. His efforts failed.

After the Japanese surrender and the subsequent occupation of Korea by United States and Soviet troops in September of 1945, Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in October. It was then that his campaign for freedom of Korea entered its second phase. He demanded that the Soviet Union give up its control of the northern half of the country and that elections be held immediately for the establishment of an independent government of Koreans.

In the protracted period of fruitless negotiation between the United States and the Soviet Union over the fate of Korea,

contradictory and often irresolute instructions from Washington, General Hodge sought to maintain a balance of influence among the three leaders until, through elections, the Korean people could make their own choice.

General Outmaneuvered

Capitalizing on his broader knowledge of the Western world and his long associations with Western statesmen, Dr. Rhee pressed his advantages, frequently appealing directly to the American people over the heads of General Hodge and President Truman himself.

When elections were held in the United States zone of Korea under the auspices and observation of the United Nations, Dr. Rhee was elected to the National Assembly from the East Gate district of Seoul. The National Assembly then elected him President for a four-year term in 1948.

As President, Dr. Rhee tried to set up a working democracy in the face of constant threats of attack from without and of conspiracy from within.

While the United States prepared to withdraw its occupation forces, the North Korean Communists began border skirmishes early in 1949. Russian guns were found to be in the possession of the attackers. Communist guerrillas killed 15,000 Koreans and destroyed 10,000 homes on Cheju Island.

Dr. Rhee sought with little success to obtain adequate supplies of arms and ammunition from the United States for his troops. On May 6, 1949, he asked whether the United States would come to the aid of the Republic of Korea in the event of attack. When a negative answer was indicated, he pressed for a Pacific security pact, with Nationalist China and the Philippines.

Disappointed by Acheson

Dean Acheson, then Secretary of State, replied that discussion of such a pact was "untimely." Dr. Rhee retorted that this attitude doomed democratic governments in Asia to piecemeal destruction by the Communists.

Dr. Rhee was anxious to unify the country, by force of arms, if necessary. But on Oct. 5, 1949, he disclosed that the United Nations and the United States had warned him that to attempt to aid North Koreans anxious to overthrow their Communist dictatorship might

have lost ground, but the intervention of the Communist Government of China on Nov. 6, 1950, solidified his support.

He and his Government had to abandon Seoul for the second time in January, 1951. The city was so badly damaged in its second recapture that the capital was moved to Pusan. There, when truce talks began, Dr. Rhee fought bitterly in an effort to achieve the withdrawal of the Chinese Communists and the disbanding of the army of the North Korean dictatorship as a condition to an armistice.

As the Korean war ground to a consuming stalemate and armistice talks were under way in the summer of 1953, Dr. Rhee, unshakably opposed to a cessation of the struggle that would leave the country divided, ordered the release of about 8,000 North Korean war prisoners from a stockade in southern Korea. These men had been screened, Dr. Rhee declared, and had been found desirous of becoming citizens of the Seoul Government.

The move took the United Nations command by surprise, enraged the Chinese-North Korean truce negotiators and nearly wrecked the truce talks at Panmunjon on the battle line. The truce was effected, however.

The truce left Korea an armed camp on both sides of the 38th parallel, and Dr. Rhee continued, as he had for eight years, to mutter about a "march north" to unify the country by force. But, under the United Nations arrangements for the defense of his nation, the aging leader never gained control of the 450,000-man Korean Army with which to implement his dream.

In 1956 he was elected to his third consecutive term as President. His perceptions dulled in proportion to the growth of power among his advisers and friends. Corruption piled on corruption as ambitious politicians fawned on Dr. Rhee, isolating him from reality.

In 1960, he was elected to a fourth term under circumstances that enraged many Koreans and dismayed his allies in the Western world. Wholesale rigging of the ballots was charged, and political opponents were thrown into jail. The Rhee Government collapsed under the impetus of an uprising begun by a few thousand Seoul students.

The disorders raged through-

through his father, of the Yi dynasty rulers who controlled Korea from 1392 to 1910. (Yi is another form of the name Lee or Rhee.)

It was his father's wish that he adhere to traditions of the period and prepare, through classical education, for government service and subsequent high position. To the finest Chinese teachers of the period he repaired to steep himself in philosophy and calligraphy.

At the end of this preparation, he won first place in the annual national examinations held in the court at Seoul. However, under the influence of the first Christian missionaries in Korea, he felt the need of a knowledge of English. He enrolled in the Pal Hai Methodist Mission school in Seoul. It was there that word of democracy—government by choice of the people—first reached his ears.

Joined Democratic Group

To the dismay of his scholarly father he joined the Independence Club, a group of young men who hoped to liberalize the court and who demanded democratic reforms within the ancient Korean monarchy. They demanded, as well, elimination of the growing Japanese influence in Korean government. Dr. Rhee founded, at this time, Korea's first daily newspaper, Independence, and the first newspaper to be published solely by a Korean. In 1895, the leader of the student independence movement fled Korea and Dr. Rhee became its director. To inspire public support of the liberal movement, he and his associates staged a mass demonstration in Seoul. He was promptly jailed.

For the heresy of criticizing the crown, Dr. Rhee was subjected to seven months of torture.

After this period of punishment he was removed to another prison to serve a life term. Shortly after, he became converted to Christianity. In prison he organized his fellow-prisoners into classes for the study of economics, English and religion. He conducted religious services in the Christian faith.

At the same time, he translated Korean classics into English and wrote a book, "The Spirit of Independence."

U.S. Stay Began in 1904

In 1904 the tottering crown of Korea granted a general amnesty to political prisoners. Dr. Rhee was released and, with the help of his father's foreign friends, he came to the United States to study.

In the next six years he earned a bachelor's degree at George Washington University, a master's degree at Harvard University, and in 1910 he received a doctorate in international law at Princeton University. His thesis was "International Law as Influenced by the United States."

During his Princeton years, Dr. Rhee was strongly influenced by Woodrow Wilson. So great was this influence that Dr. Rhee spent the remainder of his life in pursuit of the international justice President Wilson had taught him was the goal of society.

Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in 1911 as a representative of the Young Men's Christian Association. He organized in Seoul a Christian student movement and became a teacher for the Methodist Mission Board.

By this time, however, Japanese annexation of Korea, begun in 1905 and completed in 1910, had placed Japan in absolute control. His resistance to this fact was soon discovered

international conferences.

Meantime, he fought against Japanese propaganda campaigns to persuade the world that Korea was not worth discussing. In 1941 he relinquished the presidency of the exiled group to the late Kim Koo, who was in China and became chairman of the Korean Commission in Washington.

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In the protracted period of fruitless negotiation between the United States and the Soviet Union over the fate of Korea, Dr. Rhee continued his efforts to have Korea settle the question for itself. With the failure of United States-Soviet Union talks and the introduction of the Korean question into the United Nations, Dr. Rhee supported the American position.

Political Turbulence

The three-year period between liberation and independence was marked by political turbulence in which alignments were made and shattered as Dr. Rhee and his principal rivals for top power, Kim Koo and the late Kimmu Kiu Sic, struggled for pre-eminence.

Kim Koo was subsequently assassinated in an abortive plot to overthrow the Rhee government. Kimmu Kiu Sic, a Princeton University graduate, faded from consideration shortly before the government was established because of his association with scandals in the post-liberation Provisional Government, a tutelage arrangement under the United States military government. Dr. Rhee was captured by the North Korean Communists in June, 1950, and disappeared, presumably murdered.

During the same period a running feud marked relations between Dr. Rhee and the late Lieut. Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the United States Occupation Forces in Korea. Operating under frequently con-

ditions early in 1949, Russian guns were found to be in the possession of the attackers. Communist guerrillas killed 15,000 Koreans and destroyed 10,000 homes on Cheju Island.

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During 1950, he went ahead with preparations for the defense of the Republic. In May he warned of a Communist air build-up in North Korea and predicted that May and June would be months of crisis. "We lack adequate defenses," he confessed. On June 10, it was learned later, Izvestia, organ of the Soviet Government, published a timetable for political conquest of all Korea by the Communists. Seven days later, John Foster Dulles, then State Department adviser, conferred with Dr. Rhee in Seoul.

On June 25, 1950, the Russian-sponsored North Korean Communist invasion of the Republic of Korea began. Dr. Rhee appealed to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, United Nations Supreme Commander in Japan, for assistance. The United Nations condemned the aggression. United States air and naval support was given and on July 1 the first ground troops were flown in. Other United Nations members joined the defense.

Dr. Rhee and his Government were obliged to flee southward to Chinnai as the Communists captured Seoul, but General MacArthur drove the attackers back and restored the republican Government in Seoul by the end of September. In the elections of May, 1950, Dr. Rhee

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In 1960, he was elected to a fourth term under circumstances that enraged many Koreans and dismayed his allies in the Western world. Wholesale rigging of the ballots was charged, and political opponents were thrown into jail. The Rhee Government collapsed under the impetus of an uprising begun by a few thousand Seoul students.

The disorders raged throughout April and into May. Befuddled and helpless, Dr. Rhee finally resigned and fled to Hawaii as a guest of the United States.

Given Asylum by Korean

In the village of Kanshoe, on the less fashionable side of the island of Oahu, he took up residence in a tiny seaside cottage offered to him by Wilbert Choi, a well-to-do Korean nurseryman. He went there with his wife, the former Francesca Donner, the daughter of a Viennese merchant, whom he had met and wed in 1932, in Geneva.

From time to time informal amnesty was offered to him by successor governments in Seoul to return to live out his years in his homeland.

In 1962, the South Korean Government reversed its attitude toward Dr. Rhee of a year before and said "this is not yet the time" to grant him permission to return to Korea. In 1963, the Government announced he could return, if he wished, and sent him a wreath "in recognition of [his] meritorious contribution to the cause of Korean independence."

Dr. Rhee's hatred of the Japanese, a feeling shared by many of his countrymen as a result of the long colonial occupation, was a factor in preventing a rapprochement between the two countries after Korea obtained her independence. A treaty was finally signed on June 22, 1965.

Rhee's Political Foes Join in Korea's Mourning

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, July 19.—The death of former President Syngman Rhee in Honolulu today saddened all Koreans, even those who had opposed his rule and helped send him into exile.

President Chung Hee Park led the nation in expressions of regret for the death of a great patriot of Korea's struggle for independence. He instructed the Cabinet to prepare a state funeral.

Lee Suk Je, Minister of Administration, said the Government had asked the United States Air Force for help in bringing Dr. Rhee's body home for burial in the National Cemetery among the dead of the 1950-53 war.

Dr. Rhee's name was removed last month from the list of political exiles, where it had

Park Instructs Cabinet to Prepare State Funeral for First President

been since 1960, when student agitation growing out of charges that the national election was rigged had forced Dr. Rhee to leave the country.

Korean radio stations interrupted the programs today with news of Dr. Rhee's death and the plans for returning his body for burial. Newspapers published extras.

Hong Chung Chul, minister of public information, issued a statement paying tribute to Dr. Rhee's "great contribution to national independence."

A spokesman for the Minjung

Party, Dr. Rhee's opposition when he was in office, said: "We join the nation in expressing condolence. He devoted his life to the struggle for independence. Although he made political mistakes we must receive his remains warmly."

Bravery in War Recalled

WASHINGTON, July 19 (UPI)—The State Department today paid tribute to the courage of Syngman Rhee. A department statement said:

"The many Americans who remember Korea's brave stand in resistance to the Communist aggression of 1950 will mourn the passing of Syngman Rhee, whose courage during that period, springing from a lifetime of devotion to Korean independence, meant so much to the security of the free world."

Rhee Unaware of Coup, Wife Says in Honolulu

HONOLULU, May 15 (UPI)—The wife of former President Syngman Rhee of South Korea said today he knew nothing about the military revolt there. She indicated that she might not tell him immediately.

Dr. Rhee, who is 86 years old, was released from Tripler Army Hospital last week after treatment for an abscess on his back. Earlier this year he was treated there for a cardiovascular ailment.

Advised of the revolt and asked to get Dr. Rhee's reaction, the former President's wife said:

"He doesn't know anything about it and I don't know anything about it. He has just returned from the hospital, so please don't bother us."

Dr. Rhee last was seen in public on his birthday March 26.

NEW YORK TIMES 5-16-61

Rhee Adopts Student as Son

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, Korea, Nov. 13 —

The former President of South Korea, 86-year-old Syngman Rhee, adopted a Seoul student as his heir today. Mr. Rhee and his Austrian-born wife, Francesca, now in Hawaii, chose their foster son last week from among three candidates recommended by friends in Seoul. Mr. Rhee's new son is Rhee In Soo 30.

NEW YORK TIMES 11-14-61

Rhee Out of Honolulu Hospital

HONOLULU, March 29 (AP)

Dr. Syngman Rhee, former President of South Korea, was discharged today from Tripler Army Hospital after thirteen days of treatment for a nervous condition and circulatory ailment. The 87-year-old Dr. Rhee was taken to Maunaloa rest home in Honolulu for further care.

NEW YORK TIMES 3-30-62

Hundreds Greet Rhee at 90

HONOLULU, March 26 (AP)

Dr. Syngman Rhee, former President of South Korea, has received hundreds of letters and cards marking his 90th birthday today. Much of the mail is from Korea. Dr. Rhee is in failing health in a hospital here.

NEW YORK TIMES 3-27-62

RHEE, 90, IS RUSHED TO HAWAII HOSPITAL

HONOLULU, June 19 (UPI)

Dr. Syngman Rhee, the former president of South Korea, who is 90 years old, was rushed to Queen's Hospital here today for treatment of acute internal bleeding. Doctors said his condition was uncertain.

Dr. Rhee began receiving blood transfusions as soon as he arrived at the hospital. He had been bedridden at Maunaloa Hospital, a nursing home for the chronically ill.

His physician, Dr. Thomas Min, said Dr. Rhee suffered "acute internal bleeding" this morning, "his general condition is unstable and guarded at the moment," Dr. Min said.

Dr. Rhee's Austrian-born wife, Francesca, was at his bedside. However, doctors were not in constant attendance and a hospital spokesman said this indicated "his condition may not be as serious as it might appear."

Dr. Rhee has spent recent years in Hawaii, first as an exile since 1960 and later as an old man too ill to return home.

Dr. Rhee, the first president of the Republic of Korea, resigned from that post on April 27, 1960, following student riots in Seoul that left 104 dead and more than 800 injured.

NEW YORK TIMES 6-20-62

Korea's Patriarch

When Syngman Rhee left Kyungmudae, Seoul's White House, to go into exile again at the age of 85, he was cheered by the same people who had clamored for his abdication. He had spent almost half his ninety years struggling for Korea's independence, and while his countrymen did not want him to rule them, they could recognize the tragedy of this irascible old patriot, destined to face his final days abroad.

The Korean War was the high point of Dr. Rhee's career—and the beginning of his political demise. He was exalted by his allies for rallying the nation. His great power during and after the war enabled him to rule ever more arbitrarily. He could disregard American pressure for badly needed reforms, refuse to normalize relations with Japan and yet benefit from the American guarantee of Korean independence which he had sought most of his life and only obtained with the Communist invasion.

Dr. Rhee's domestic problems were enormous and, increasingly, political as well as economic. His egotism, his age and his prejudices made him susceptible to manipulation by the wrong people. Political unrest grew as he subverted the democratic processes he himself had created. Finally, to win re-election to a fourth term in 1960, he had to resort to election frauds so extensive that they outraged the nation, set off a bloody uprising of Korean students and brought him down.

A fair verdict on the old patriarch must, however, recall his fight against the ancient Korean monarchy at the end of the last century that led to his arrest and torture, his later conversion to Christianity and the writing, in prison, of "The Spirit of Independence," for decades the handbook of Korean political thought. He will be remembered for his long struggle in Korea and abroad—much of it from a Washington base—against the Japanese annexation that began in 1905 and was completed in 1910. And, in the end, he may be remembered most as the statesman who, despite his authoritarianism and his belligerence, did much to liberate his country and to give Korea its first freely chosen government in its 5,000-year history.

RHEE RITES TUESDAY PLANNED BY CABINET

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, Korea, July 21.—The Cabinet committee in charge of the People's Funeral to be given former President Syngman Rhee decided today to hold it Tuesday at the Municipal Stadium. Rhee Hyo Sing, Speaker of the National Assembly, heads the funeral committee of more than 1,000 members.

Work began yesterday at the National Cemetery to prepare a tomb for Dr. Rhee, who died Monday while in exile in Honolulu. He had said he wished to be buried in the cemetery where Korean war dead lie.

At Dr. Rhee's home here, where his body will be after it is flown across the Pacific aboard a United States Air Force plane Saturday, more than 20,000 people have paid visits to burn incense and bow before a temporary altar.

Fourteen members of the Association of April Revolution Comrades, who took part in the 1960 student revolt that ousted Dr. Rhee from power, began a hunger strike at the association's offices, in protest against the elaborate funeral. They said such a public rite "profanes the souls" of those killed in the anti-Rhee uprising.

NEW YORK TIMES 7-22-65

NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK TIMES 7-20-65

LEE, RHEE'S AIDE, DIES WITH FAMILY

Ex-Running Mate Slain in
Suicide Pact, Army Says

Special to The New York Times.
SEOUL, Korea, Thursday,
April 28—Vice President-elect
Lee Ki Poong, his wife and two
sons died in a suicide pact in a
bungalow in the presidential
compound early today.

This was announced by the
Republic of Korea Army's Mar-
tial Law Command.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and their
younger son were shot by Lieut.
Rhee Kang Suk, 23 years old,
who then killed himself, offi-
cials said. He was the older son,
but was adopted by President
Syngman Rhee about two years
ago and took the Rhee name.

Mr. Lee, life-long associate of
President Dr. Rhee, had as
Vice President-elect been a chief
target of the opposition to the
Rhee regime.

The tragedy occurred, accord-
ing to one Government source,
about 4:30 A. M. Another offi-
cial source said it was 5:40
A. M. The bodies have been
taken to the Sudo Korean Army
Hospital near the Capitol build-
ing. The whereabouts of the
resigned President Rhee could
not be immediately determined.

Lieutenant Lee's younger
brother was Kang Wook, 18
years old, a student.

The whereabouts of the Lee
family had not been known all
this week. A mob of angry stu-
dents sacked Mr. Lee's resi-
dence Monday morning as part

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LEE, RHEE'S AIDE, DIES WITH FAMILY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

of the week-end demonstrations
that overturned the Rhee Gov-
ernment.

Young Kang Wook and some
of his young friends had been
reported to have been in the
house when it was besieged by
the students Sunday night. Ac-
cording to this account, the
young man's friends came out
of the house and fired shot-gun
blasts into the crowd of stu-
dents, resulting in several
deaths.

Mr. Lee, who had been Speak-
er of the Assembly, was the
storm center of the uprisings
following the March 15 national
election, in which he won the
Vice Presidency overwhelmingly
over the incumbent Vice
President John Myun Chang,
who resigned last week in a

protest over the manner in
which the poll was conducted.
Subsequently, Dr. Rhee order-
ed Mr. Lee's resignation,
which never came.

Seoul Papers Print Extras
Special bulletins were posted
throughout Seoul and newspa-
pers put out extra editions, giv-
ing the unconfirmed accounts
of the killings of the Lee
family.

Lee Ki Poong was a very
close personal friend and polit-
ical associate of President Rhee.

Mr. Lee's wife who, accord-
ing to common Korean cus-
tom used her maiden name of
Marie Park, was a close friend
of Mrs. Rhee, the Austrian-
born wife of the retired Presi-
dent. Mrs. Park was the vice
president of Ewha Women's
University, a large women's ed-
ucational institution.

As President Rhee's hench-
man, Mr. Lee had been the ac-
tual political boss of South Ko-
rea most of the time since the
birth of the nation's freedom in
1948.

Practically all important Gov-



Associated Press Radiophoto
ACCLAIMED IN RETIREMENT: Syngman Rhee, who resigned under pressure as the
President of South Korea, waves to cheering residents of Seoul as he leaves residence.
Truman Has Praise for Rhee

WASHINGTON, April 28 (AP)
—Former President Harry S.
Truman today described the
resignation of Dr. Syngman
Rhee as President of Korea as
a "very patriotic stand." Mr.
Truman, here to speak at a
luncheon of a National Confer-
ence on International Economic
and Social Development, said
he was a great admirer of Dr
Rhee.

Times 4-29-60

Times 4-28-60



PAN-ASIA
**Lee Ki Poong, ousted Vice
President-elect of South
Korea. He died in Seoul.**

ailing and semi-paralyzed,
unable to stand without support,
Mr. Lee had been prevented by
his physical condition from ex-
ercising complete control of the
Liberal party political machine
in the last few years. His dis-
ability was considered to have
been one of the factors leading
to the break-up his machine and
ultimately in the fall of the
Rhee Government.

During Mr. Lee's tenure as
Speaker of the House of Rep-
resentatives the last two years,
he was rarely seen in the cham-
ber.

Four years ago Mr. Lee was
defeated for the Vice Presidency
by Dr. Chang by more than
200,000 votes. Yet in the election
last March 15, Mr. Lee unseated
Mr. Chang by a majority of
more than 6,000,000, taking
every constituency in the coun-
try. The disparity in the vote
over the four-year span ap-
peared to support widespread
charges of the Liberal party's
coercive practices in the March
15 ballot.

ernment appointments had to be
made with the approval of Mr.
Lee.

RHEE MARKS BIRTHDAY

Korean, 85, Shuns Fanfare—Prisoners Get Amnesty

Special to The New York Times.
SEOUL, Korea, March 26—President Syngman Rhee observed his eighty-fifth birthday today without much fanfare. All public functions, including a rally and a military parade, were canceled in accordance with his wishes.

Dr. Rhee said early this week that these functions cost too much.

The Opposition daily newspaper speculated that his reason for calling off the birthday rally might be connected with fear that trouble would flare at a public gathering.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Justice paroled 236 prisoners throughout South Korea on the occasion of the President birthday. The army also paroled 450 prisoners.

Times 3-27-60

RHEE READY TO RELINQUISH MUCH OF EXECUTIVE POWER AND REVISE KOREAN REGIME

** 4/23/60*

Weigh Changes in Seoul Regime



President Syngman Rhee



Lee Ki Poong

OPPONENT QUILTS

Vice President-Elect May Also Retire to Restore Stability

By ROBERT TRUMBULL
 Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, Saturday, April 23—President Syngman Rhee was authoritatively said today to have agreed to a Government reorganization and the establishment of a new system of "Cabinet responsibility" in which the President's office would become a more or less ceremonial position.

Dr. Rhee's intention was made known by Vice President-elect Lee Ki Poong, who simultaneously said he was "considering" his own retirement from public life.

In the past, as President of Korea, Dr. Rhee has held a position equivalent to that of the President of the United States. He also has conducted his office, however, as a kind of "strong man."

Under a Cabinet system, the Korean Government would resemble that of Italy and other countries, where a Premier is the chief executive, and the President plays the role of ceremonial head of state and sometimes of elder statesman.

Meanwhile, Vice President John M. Chang announced his resignation.

Dr. Chang demanded that Dr. Rhee step down from the Presidency "for the sake of democracy." Dr. Chang, leader of the Opposition Democratic party, demanded that the President "frankly admit the March 15 election irregularities and the invalidity of the ballot" in which Dr. Chang was overwhelmingly defeated for reelection by Mr. Lee.

Election Led to Riots
 Dr. Chang had defeated Mr. Lee for the same post four years ago by more than 200,000 votes.

When Mr. Lee's election by a majority of more than 6,000,000 was announced, demonstrations, mostly led by students, broke out that have so far cost 124 lives by the official count.

Unofficial estimates of the dead from riots in Seoul, and other cities went as high as 250.

Dr. Rhee's acceptance of the changes suggested by Mr. Lee and others would be intended to bring about political stability and end the current crisis.

Alterations of the governmental structure would involve new general elections. This would be accompanied by complete reorganization of the governing Liberal party. Conservative elements now divided between Liberals and the Opposition Democratic party would combine.

Koreans who have been in close touch with Dr. Rhee in recent days predicted yesterday that Mr. Lee would relinquish his claim to office and that the President would acquiesce in that move.

International

In the aftermath of Tuesday's bloody uprising in Korea, it was reliably reported in Seoul this morning that President Rhee's Cabinet had offered to resign en masse. While smarting under the sting of a stern rebuke from Washington, the 85-year-old President promised to investigate and correct the major causes of discontent in his country that led to the rioting in which at least 115 persons were killed. [Page 1, Column 8.]

Times 4-21-60

Text of Rhee's Statement

SEOUL, Korea, Tuesday, April 26 (UPI)—Following is the text of a statement issued today by President Syngman Rhee:

Since I returned home after the liberation, I have lived well with all patriotic brethren, and I have no regret to die. I have always wanted to do and will do whatever the people desire and follow.

I received the report that our beloved young students and other patriotic brethren are demanding of me several things. I will follow their wish in my judgment. One thing I request is that our brethren keep in mind the Communist forces above the Thirty-eighth Parallel even at this moment are seeking every chance to invade us and, therefore, we should do our best not to give the Communists any such chance.

1. I will resign from the Presidency if the people desire.

2. Since there are reports of many unfair practices in the March 15 Presidential and Vice Presidential elections, I have instructed new elections.

3. In order to eliminate all frauds in connection with the last elections, I have told



President Syngman Rhee

Speaker Lee Ki-poong to resign from every public position he holds.

4. As I have already agreed, I will agree with the Constitutional amendment for a Parliamentary system.

Rhee, 80, Shows Unabated Vigor In Leading Asia's Fight on Reds

**Dynamism of Aged Korean
Leader Is Undiminished—
His Re-election Expected**

By ROBERT TRUMBULL

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, March 18—President Syngman Rhee, who will be 80 years old March 26, is in the forefront of Asia's fight against communism. He shows today the vigor that has characterized his lifetime of struggle to free his country from tyrannies.

If the imminence of his eightieth birthday inclined the old warrior's reflections toward the emotional past, when he relentlessly fought the Japanese occupation of his country for forty-five years, an animated interview of an hour and a half today failed to show it.

Dr. Rhee was preoccupied instead with new battles, and his dynamism was undimmed by the years. Only a slight infirmness of voice indicated advanced age. His smooth, tawny features were clear, his walk and bearing were steady.

It is generally said that Dr. Rhee will be re-elected President in 1956, although he makes the customary polite avowals of all veteran politicians in their twilight years that he would prefer to lay aside the cares of office. And, as in the case of other leaders who make similar statements from time to time, no one believes him.

With Dr. Rhee firmly in the saddle, his Government is often accused of authoritarian tendencies, of ruthlessness toward the opposition. But Korea, Dr. Rhee would reply, is still formally at war with an implacable foe, and war permits no temporizing in the face of a possible threat to the security of the state.

Paper Is Suspended

Only yesterday a leading independent newspaper of Seoul, the Tong-a Ilbo was summarily suspended for a slighting reference to the President. The offending editors explained that this was because of an understandable typographical error in the setting of Chinese characters.

When the incident was mentioned to Dr. Rhee near the close of today's interview, he turned abruptly to his information director, Dr. Hong Kee Karl, who was present.

"That was wrong," he snapped. "You shouldn't suspend the paper. Don't do that."

But in the discussion that followed, Dr. Karl stated that the paper had some connection with a "neutralist" faction in Japan, a group that argues for "co-existence" with the Communists. Instantly the atmosphere changed, and prospects for the apless newspaper editors seemed far less hopeful than had been the case only seconds previously.

There is no "neutralism," no "co-existence," in Dr. Rhee's catalogue.

Japan's recent approaches to Communist China for trade relations and to the Soviet Union for diplomatic exchanges obviously have placed the neighboring island empire in Dr. Rhee's books as little better than an outright enemy of democracy.

For him, obviously, there is no compromise in any respect whatever with the foe that threatens the free world. It was with evident frustration, which in a more volatile man might have approached fury, that he discussed the leashes placed around the necks of democratic arms,



Associated Press

Dr. Syngman Rhee

including his own twenty divisions, by the United Nations while the Communists sharpen their weapons freely for the new aggression that Dr. Rhee believes is coming.

President Rhee made it plain in today's interview that if he were not restrained by the United States general officers who command the United Nations forces in South Korea, he would simply order his army to shoot any Communist in sight.

Dr. Rhee's attitude can perhaps be understood better when one reflects that the interview took place in a Presidential mansion covered with camouflage netting. Standing on a hill overlooking the ancient Korean capital, the former residence of the Japanese Governor-General, and later of the commander of United States occupation forces, might be a valued Communist target.

The President and his Austrian wife, the former Francesca Donner, live simply and frugally in the mansion on the hill. It is recalled that only on one occasion, a party for Vice President Richard M. Nixon, did they serve alcoholic beverages at an official function. When the Rhees feel called upon to give a "cocktail" party, guests are offered tea.

Other Outdoor Recreations

When the weather is suitable, the President's morning includes a hike along a rough, brush-covered path up the steep, brush-covered peak behind the mansion. His other outdoor recreations are playing with his dogs, of which he always has several, and tending shrubs and trees in his garden.

Early to bed, early to rise, and a nap after lunch for perhaps half an hour—these are the boundaries of the President's routine.

Whatever criticisms of President Rhee may be heard here, indecisiveness is not one of them. The basis of his political opposition appears to revolve around Dr. Rhee's impatience with constitutional procedures when the equivocal processes of democracy threaten to cross, his will.

Yet those South Koreans who accuse Dr. Rhee of political high-handedness unhesitatingly acknowledge his patriotism, even his "greatness." There appears no reason to dispute a common assessment of Dr. Syngman Rhee as the Jawaharlal Nehru of Korea, although the Indian statesman, no admirer of Dr. Rhee, might be shaken to hear

2D MAN ON TICKET IS KOREA QUESTION

**All Signs Indicate Rhee Will
Head Slate in '56 Again—
His Victory Termed Sure**

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, Nov. 26—With the South Korean Presidential election only six months away there is no evidence that Dr. Syngman Rhee intends to retire. In fact, the evidence is all to the contrary.

The 80-year-old President still speaks of events well beyond the elections of next May or June and inauguration Aug. 15. The only speculation among Korean politicians and in the newspapers is on whom he will choose as his running mate.

There is little doubt here that he would win if he ran again, and by an overwhelming majority.

The Democratic party is expected to name P. H. Shinicky as its Presidential candidate. He is a member of the National Assembly and a former speaker of that body.

Two other leading members of that party are John M. Chang and Chough Byung. Mr. Chang is former Ambassador to the United States and former Premier, Mr. Chough, who now is in the Assembly, is a former Minister of Home Affairs in the Rhee Cabinet.

Contrast With U. S. Post

Speculation on Dr. Rhee's choice of a running mate holds the interest of many because of the belief that the President will thus show his preference for his eventual successor. But the Korean Vice Presidency is not so important a post as the American.

In the event of the President's death or disability the Korean Vice President would not serve out the unexpired term. The Constitution provides for the election of a successor within three months after the vacancy occurs.

The name most frequently heard as Dr. Rhee's running mate is Lee Ki Poong. He is Speaker of the Assembly and active head of the ruling Liberal party. He is the man most frequently at the President's side at public functions and is said to hold Dr. Rhee's confidence more than any other Korean.

A new starter was added in an obviously inspired story last week that the President looked with favor on Dr. You Chan Yang, Ambassador to Washington.

Some observers believe that Mr. Yang is willing but they doubt that the story had come from Kyungnu Dae, as the Korean White House is known.

Dr. Rhee issued an unusual statement today to deny he was backing his Ambassador to Washington. Mr. Yang was called home from Washington



Associated Press

**RE-ELECTION EVIDENT:
President Syngman Rhee of
South Korea. With election
coming up in six months,
there are no indications
that he intends to retire.**

Old Tiger Rhee Awaits Reunion

SEOUL, (AP)—President Syngman Rhee and U.N. Economic Co-ordinator C. Tyler Wood are expected to be among 40 graduates of Princeton University who will hold their school's first reunion in Korea here May 7.

Rhee was graduated from Princeton in 1910; Wood in 1921.

Times
4/26/54

Graduates in Korea Hold Seoul Reunion

Forty-five Princeton alumni held a reunion at the Chosen Hotel in Seoul, Korea, on Friday, May 7, and preliminary arrangements were made to establish a permanent Princeton Club of Korea. President of the Republic Syngman Rhee, Graduate School Class of 1910, is expected to be elected honorary president of the organization.

The reunion came about through the efforts of Rhee and C. Tyler Wood '21, United Nations Command Economic Coordinator for Korea, who conceived the idea.

Attempts were made to round up all Princetonians in Korea serving in the Army, Air Force, Marines and Navy as well as Koreans who attended Princeton.

Invitations were sent for cocktails followed by a steak dinner at the

Chosen Hotel to the 45 who were turned up.

The hotel, according to Lt. Philip W. Hummer '53 who notified the Princetonian of the affair, "is one of the most elaborate structures in Korea and provided an excellent setting" for the reunion.

Guests of honor included Rhee, Dr. George Paik '25, General Maxwell D. Taylor, Eighth Army Commander; the Hon. Ellis O. Briggs, U. S. Ambassador to Korea.

Prince 5/11/54

RHEE HAILS U.S. GREETING

Hopes for Good Outcome in Economic-Military Talks

SEOUL, Korea, Aug. 13 (UP) — President Syngman Rhee said today he avoided proposing a renewal of the Korean war on his trip to the United States because "the situation was unfavorable at the highest levels."

The 79-year-old South Korean leader, who once threatened to fight the Communists alone, issued a prepared statement at the airport when he returned from his eighteen-day visit to the United States and Hawaii.

Dr. Rhee said his welcome in America went "far beyond my expectations." He attributed his reception as "praise and encouragement for the brave and heroic fight for freedom of the Korean people and armed forces."

The President said he expected a "good outcome" for economic and military discussions still under way in Washington.

Rhee Recovering After Surgery

SEOUL, Jan. 17 (AP)—Sources close to President Syngman Rhee said today the 79-year-old South Korean leader was recuperating rapidly from an operation for a glandular condition performed last Tuesday in a United States Army hospital. The President was back in his mansion and reported resuming his duties.

Rhees Greeted At White House



July 27, 54

President Eisenhower (left) greets President Syngman Rhee of South Korea on his arrival at the White House. At right is

Mrs. Rhee and at the far left is Mrs. Eisenhower. President Rhee is in Washington for talks with U. S. officials.

U. S. WILL BACK HIM IN NEED, RHEE SAYS

Asserts, However, Republic Will Not Renew Attack on Communists Soon

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Monday, Aug. 16 — President Syngman Rhee told his people publicly yesterday for the first time that South Korea was not planning to renew the war in the near future.

He did make clear, however, he was confident that when South Korea is militarily strong enough to march north the United States will furnish arms and ammunition.

The President spoke at a rally to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the creation of the republic.

He said: "Please understand I am not saying we shall resume war today or tomorrow. We first must agree upon our plan and make our preparations. After that all our people will join together in a crusade and campaign that will lead to victory and peace."

Earlier in his address, Dr. Rhee indicated his faith in the United States people not to disappoint him when he felt the time for action had arrived.

Support Still Expected

He said: "Koreans still believe freedom-loving nations and individuals everywhere will support us heart and soul when we take definite steps to assure our own survival. . . . Our people are already prepared morally and spiritually to take final action to settle our own problems by ourselves. Beyond that we require only the physical capability to act."

At one point the President referred to his recent suggestion for a preventive war to settle current world problems. He said he was not sure if the rest of the world knew how the phrase was applied to Korea, but his meaning was that Chinese Communists should be driven out and kept out of Korea. This policy, he added, would be equally effective if adopted by all other nations of the free world.

Dr. Rhee's address lacked the fire and emotion of most of his earlier speeches. About 10,000 listeners seemed equally unaffected by the address. In the past the Korean people often were overcome with enthusiasm in listening to the President speak.

Rhee Refers to 'Plan'

Many observers here believed that if Dr. Rhee had achieved concrete gains on his trip to the United States he would have been eager to tell the Korean people at the earliest opportunity.

President Rhee referred several times to a South Korea "plan" to unify Korea. He said he was certain it would meet with the approval of United States military strategists if they were serious in desiring unification. He emphasized his plan would not involve use of either atomic or hydrogen bombs.

Dr. Rhee did not detail what his plan was, nor would his advisers indicate when it had been conceived. At the close of his address, high Government officials disclaimed knowledge of any plan of action for unification. They suggested the President may have just completed it since returning from his trip.

LONDON, Aug. 15 (AP)—Marshal Kim Il Sung, commander of Communist North Korea's Army, today ordered his forces to be on the alert against an attack from the south. The order, broadcast by Peiping radio, was heard here.

TOKYO, Aug. 15 (AP)—A Japanese Prince, brother of Emperor Hirohito, joined 250 guests at the South Korean Mission today to observe the ninth anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan.

Prince and Princess Takamatsu joined Gen. John Hull, United Nations Far East commander, the diplomatic corps and Japanese officials in the observance.

Rhee Finds G.I.'s No Use If They Don't Fight Reds

SEOUL, Korea, Aug. 23 (AP)

—President Syngman Rhee of South Korea showed little dismay today concerning the United States announcement it would withdraw many of its troops from Korea.

"There is no use for foreign troops to stay in Korea if they are not going to fight communism," he said.

It was the 79-year-old Dr. Rhee's first public reaction to the news that four of the six United States divisions in Korea would leave.

"We should not fear even if all United States troops are pulled out of Korea because we know God will help us," Dr. Rhee told 70,000 Koreans at Seoul Municipal Stadium. He returned Aug. 13 from a twenty-day tour of the United States.

8/24/54

Rhee Nominated Anew; He Hints He Will Run

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, March 5—President Syngman Rhee was unanimously nominated for a third term today by his Liberal party.

The Presidential election will be held in either May or June.

Eight hundred three party delegates from throughout South Korea, holding their national convention here, also unanimously nominated Lee Ki Poong, chairman of the National Assembly, as Dr. Rhee's running mate.

President Rhee will be 81 years old on March 26. Mr. Lee is 59.

Dr. Rhee told the delegates in a message that he did not wish to run because he already had served a second term and was old. However, he added by implication that he would bow to the wishes of the people, whatever these might be.

N. Y. Times
3-6-56

Syngman Rhee is 81

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, March 26—A military parade and fireworks marked President Syngman Rhee's eighty-first birthday today. Dr. Rhee, who will seek re-election this summer for a third term, appeared fit.

N. Y. Times
3-27-56

Rhee Says Crises Disprove Idea Free World Can Rely on Reds

Suggests U.N. Be Reorganized to Bar Communist Lands— Discredits Police Units

By FOSTER HAILEY

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, Nov. 16—Recent events in the Middle East and East Europe have proved the fallacy of the belief that the free world and the Communist world can live peaceably together, Dr. Syngman Rhee, South Korean President, said today.

The Soviet Union has proved by its actions in Hungary that it will use force whenever its own rule is threatened anywhere, he said. He believes the record has shown that words are useless against such tactics. The Communists are influenced only by deeds, he said.

The Soviet military suppression of the Hungarians' attempt to again become masters in their own country quite obviously has affected President Rhee deeply.

In a discussion of international affairs in the sunny study of his home on North Mountain overlooking the Korean capital and then at luncheon, he returned again and again to that subject. One reason was because he saw a parallel between Hungary and the situation in his own divided country.

Rhee Opposes Revolt in North

"Some persons have suggested that I urge my people to the north to revolt," he said. "But how can I do that unless I can assure them help will come?"

The 81-year-old President always speaks of the North Koreans as "My" people. He never has accepted and quite obviously does not intend to accept the division of Korea imposed by the Soviet Union in 1945 and supported during the Korean war by Soviet arms and Chinese Communist troops. More than 400,000 Chinese Red troops still remain north of the Thirty-eighth Parallel in Korea.

Dr. Rhee never accepted armistice in 1953 that left the country divided. He has long demanded that the sixteen countries in the United Nations that fought alongside South Korea from 1950 to 1953 take whatever means are needed to wipe out the dividing line and unify Korea.

The President knows the horrors of war. Twice he had to leave his capital when Communist armies overran most of the republic in 1950 and again in 1951. But he believes there are some situations that hardly can be borne. The abandonment of the Hungarians to Soviet guns was one such situation, he said.

Rhee Warns Against Fear

"We deny our manhood if we say we will not fight under any circumstances," he said. "We must not let fear determine all our actions."

The Korean leader believes that the United Nations, as now organized, cannot bring peace to the world. Nor does he see much value in a United Nations police force. "You [United States] would not allow a United Nations police force to come into



President Syngman Rhee

your country, would you?" he asked.

Dr. Rhee said he favored a world organization of free nations only. Then let countries now Communist controlled join when they qualify, he suggested.

The key to the future lies in Washington, in the hands of President Eisenhower, the Korean President said. "Now that the election is over, I hope that he will be prepared to take resolute action when it is called for," Dr. Rhee said. "When justice is on our side, then we should act."

Japanese Are Alarmed

Special to The New York Times.

TOKYO, Nov. 16—Japan's two top Cabinet officers expressed deep concern over world events today. They denounced both the British and French intervention in Egypt and Soviet interference in Hungary today.

In opening addresses at a special session of the Diet, Premier Ichiro Hatoyama and Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu pledged Japan to a policy of peace. Both applauded the reelection of President Eisenhower as an influence toward the restoration of world harmony.

The current Diet meeting was called primarily to ratify Japan's peace arrangement with the Soviet Union concluded last month in Moscow.

Mr. Shigemitsu said the action of Britain and France on Egypt "was a willful betrayal of the spirit of the United Nations that jeopardized its very existence." He urged the Soviet leaders to "listen to the voice of the Hungarians and take measures to ease the situation in line with the resolutions of the United Nations."

Premier Hatoyama dwelt principally on Japan's recent economic gains, including a 10 per cent increase in the national income since 1955. He said Japan should concentrate on economic enhancement while "avoiding at all costs involvement in the disputes of other countries."