

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."

RHEE, 83, HONORED BY SOUTH KOREANS

17, 1959. #10

Jan 17/59

Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, Korea, March 26—South Korea celebrated President Syngman Rhee's eighty-third birthday today with a military parade, fireworks and other events.

Dr. Rhee, who is a symbol of Korean independence and vigilance against communism, still has a life-long wish to fulfill—the unification of his divided country. He says he now sees the prospect for unification getting brighter.

The President applauded from the reviewing stand when two United States Honest John rockets and two atomic cannons passed before him during an hour-long military parade.

It was the first time Seoul residents had seen these weapons, which the United Nations Command brought into South Korea early this year in efforts to counter-balance the increased equipment of the Communist forces in north Korea.

Congratulatory birthday messages were received from Secretary of State Dulles, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of Nationalist China; Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam; Nobusuke Kishi, Premier of Japan, and other free world leaders.

A Stubborn Korean Syngman Rhee

In his long, arduous and often troubled life, Dr. Syngman Rhee has been called many things—a patriot, a tyrant, a stubborn old man.

Dr. Rhee, wizened by his 83 years, is iron-shelled in resisting many pressures. Often this quality has put him in the world spotlight.

Now his controversial security law, which has brought about the recall of the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea for consultations, has focused that spotlight again.

For all the clouds of controversy Dr. Rhee has caused, he remains essentially an uncomplicated man. In a political life that has lasted for sixty-four years (he entered politics five years before Sir Winston Churchill) Dr. Rhee has dedicated himself to the proposition that Korea must be independent. The South Korean President has stoutly maintained that he better than anyone at home or abroad knows how to reunite the country in independence.



The New York Times

Decision is his

Not a Trustful Man

Dr. Rhee has seldom, if ever, placed full trust in any of his lieutenants, much less in the country's elected legislators. Once a Korean Premier announced a decision to reporters after alighting from a plane. A Government spokesman, upon hearing of it, exclaimed in outraged incredulity, "But he's only the Prime Minister; he's not allowed to make decisions."

Dr. Rhee was born Lee Sung Man (later anglicized to Syngman Rhee), a descendant of the dynastic rulers of Korea for 519 years. It was his father's wish that the boy prepare himself by a classical education for government service.

The youth steeped himself in oriental philosophy and calligraphy under the finest teachers. A remarkable student, he won first place in the national examinations held in the royal court in Seoul.

Under the influence of missionaries, the boy felt a need

the scars. When he is excited now he still shakes his injured hands and blows on them.

Released from prison by a general amnesty, 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 and a Ph. D. in international law at Princeton.

Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in 1911, but by that time Japan had annexed his country and he soon was forced to flee.

Organized Guerrillas

Dr. Rhee was active in Hawaii, Washington, Switzerland and China in organizing a guerrilla movement directed against the Japanese and in fighting politically for independence. In 1919, at a secret session held in Seoul, Dr. Rhee was elected President of the Korean Provisional Government. A price was put on his head.

Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in 1945, was elected president

and has been the designated president. The device is officially labeled "SNAP III." It takes its name from the A. E. C. program under which it was developed and designed.

Systems for nuclear energy are constructed of electric material called moderators, or semi-conductors, placed in a circular arrangement.

The double layer of spokes radiating from the center is arranged in pairs of twenty. This was achieved by arranging direct heat-into-electricity generator to carry out the suggestion the demonstration.

At President Eisenhower's satellite was launched Dec. 18,

n-y. Times
3-27-58

Plot to Kill Rhee Confirmed

SEOUL, Korea, Jan. 10 (AP)—The National Police said today that a plot by North Korean Communists to assassinate President Syngman Rhee, first reported by a high Korean source in Tokyo, was uncovered last fall. The police at first professed to know nothing about such a plot when the story came out of Tokyo yesterday.

n-y. Times
1-11-59

At President Eisenhower's suggestion the demonstration was repeated for White House reporters by Maj. Gen. Donald J. Keim, chief of the A. E. C. Atomic Reactor Division; Col. Jack Armstrong, deputy chief, and Lt. Gov. M. Anderson, the officer directly in charge of the project. The device is officially labeled "SNAP III." It takes its name from the A. E. C. program under which it was developed and designed. Systems for nuclear energy are constructed of electric material called moderators, or semi-conductors, placed in a circular arrangement. The double layer of spokes radiating from the center is arranged in pairs of twenty. This was achieved by arranging direct heat-into-electricity generator to carry out the suggestion the demonstration. At President Eisenhower's satellite was launched Dec. 18,

NEW SECURITY ACT DEFENDED BY RHEE

He Vows South Korea Will
Maintain Freedoms Under
Controversial Measure

By ROBERT TRUMBULL

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, Jan. 21—The Republic of Korea's new security law is being criticized by Americans in ignorance of the true situation here, President Syngman Rhee said today in an interview.

Dr. Rhee gave strong assurances that the law, passed Dec. 24 as an anti-subversion measure, would be administered with the fullest regard for the freedoms of assembly, speech and the press. Opponents say these are being threatened.

The President gave no indication that he would entertain amendments being sought by an Opposition party to guarantee such rights in the law itself. However, legislative leaders of opposed factions have been showing an inclination to study some mutually satisfactory compromises to get stalled parliamentary processes in South Korea moving again.

President Rhee asserted that his Government, despite its inexperience in democracy, had "never violated democratic principles." He said he failed to understand why anyone should think his administration would do so now.

Red Infiltration Alleged

"Koreans love freedom perhaps more than any other people," he declared. "Our only aim is to protect ourselves against communism.

"Communists have been infiltrating all activities in this country. They are coming in every day. We have not only enemies outside but also enemies within trying to disturb the situation.

"The United States is far away while we are close to the enemy land. Americans don't have to have such a security law at the present time, but they are doing other things to make themselves secure."

The Korean leader maintained his long-standing position that the Communists respected only force.

"If we show them timidity or fear, there is no hope that the democratic nations will survive," he said.

Dr. Rhee said he had told Ambassador Walter C. Dowling, who is in Washington reporting on the disturbed political atmosphere here and General George H. Decker, commander of United States and United Nations forces in Korea, that the "practical situation demands" a stringent security law.

The law passed last month



The New York Times

DEFENDS NEW LAW:
President Syngman Rhee of South Korea. He said the security measure would be administered with the fullest regard for freedom.

fixes heavy penalties, including death, for internationally aiding the enemy through a long list of activities that otherwise would be commonplace in democratic countries. These activities include collecting economic and cultural as well as military information and criticizing the President and other specified high officials.

The bill was passed in the absence of the Opposition members. They had been forcibly ousted from the legislative chamber after they had staged a six-day sitdown demonstration with considerable attendant disorder and violence.

RHEE PLANS RACE FOR A 4TH TERM

President, 84, Cites Perils
but Voices Hope of Gaining
a Free and Unified Korea

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, April 15—Dr. Syngman Rhee, 84-year-old President of South Korea, declared today he would run for a fourth term next year "to fulfill my lifelong desire" to gain an independent, unified Korea.

He said at a news conference he felt he should run again because of the difficult time his country was facing.

The anti-Communist leader said the North Korean, Communist regime was sending espionage agents to South Korea on abduction and assassination missions, with the purpose of destroying this republic.

When asked who his running mate would be Dr. Rhee said the voters should decide that, adding that the President and Vice President should be like husband and wife. In the 1956 elections the voters rejected Dr. Rhee's running mate, Lee Ki Poong, Speaker of the National Assembly, and instead elected Dr. John M. Chang, leader of the opposition Democratic party, as Vice President.

Commenting on a current Korean-Japanese dispute, the President declared that South Korea would not sit idly by if the Japanese Government should attempt to send Koreans now residing in Japan to North Korea. Japan has offered to repatriate to the Communist north those Koreans who wish to go there, under safeguards to insure that none is under duress. There are about 611,000 Koreans in Japan, and it has been estimated that from 20,000 to 117,000 would take advantage of the offer.

Negotiations Proposed

President Rhee called upon Japan to quit "such dishonorable maneuverings." He said South Korea stood ready to discuss her differences with Japan and arrive at reasonable conclusions. The only prerequisite, he asserted, is that Japan show goodwill, sincerity and respect for South Korea as a free, independent and sovereign nation.

Commenting on the proposed East-West summit talks, President Rhee said top-level conferences involving Communists had



Pan-Asia

TO RUN AGAIN: Syngman Rhee, the President of South Korea. He announced he would seek fourth term.

always been futile and sometimes dangerous. He advised the Western nations to abandon their attempts to negotiate with communism.

The President described the current legislative impasse here as "shameful." Parliamentary proceedings have been almost at a standstill since last Dec. 24, when members of the ruling Liberal party summarily adopted the controversial Security Bill and amended the local autonomy law after opposition legislators had been forcibly evicted from the Assembly chamber.

"Continuation of turmoil would mean the loss of Korean international prestige at a time when we could ill afford it—at a time when the Communist danger is greater than ever," the President declared.

Rhee's Burdened Aide

Lee Ki Poong

OF the Koreans to whom President Syngman Rhee is the voice, soul and supreme authority, none stands closer to the aged patriot than Poong Lee Ki—the quiet little man who has been elected Vice President. Since the days of the liberation of Korea from Japan in 1945, Mr. Lee

has stood by Dr. Rhee's side, often taking the buffeting intended for the older man and quietly slipping out of the limelight on occasions of triumph for the President.

Few persons familiar with the highly explosive quality of Korean politics believe that Mr. Lee can be regarded as a successor to the President.

"I look to the day when I can lay down these burdens," he told a Western friend not long ago. "I am weary, but as long as the President needs me I will stay."

Loyalty Never Swerves

A slight, smiling man, Mr. Lee for many years has suffered in silence from fragile health and a heavy burden as secretary and confidant of Dr. Rhee. The Vice President-elect has often overlooked Dr. Rhee's occasional heavy-handed treatment of democratic procedures, but he has never wavered in his dedication to the man himself.

Whether as secretary-without-portfolio, appointed Mayor of Seoul in the days of war, short-term Defense Minister or Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Lee has performed with self-effacing dignity.

His association with Dr. Rhee began in the early Nineteen Thirties, when both men were in this country.

Mr. Lee, whose family had been impoverished by the Japanese occupation, struggled for six years after high school to save enough money to come to the United States.

He enrolled at the now-defunct Tabor College, Tabor, Iowa, in 1924, with the approval of the Japanese, as a liberal arts student.

Meets Rhee in New York

At the end of the academic year, his funds exhausted, Mr. Lee came to New York, where he took menial jobs and where he met Dr. Rhee. In 1935, discouraged, in poor health and unprepared for a profession, Mr. Lee went home to find his parents dying.

While here, however, he had met Maria Park, a young Korean who was studying at missionary schools. Friends said in later years that Miss



PAN-ASIA

"I look to the day when I can lay down these burdens."

Park's enthusiasm for her calling had been medicine for Mr. Lee.

The decade preceding the liberation of Korea from the Japanese was a grim one for his countrymen. Koreans were being impressed as laborers in Japan's expanding empire. The substance of the peninsula was being sucked dry by the expansionist course of Japan.

Mr. Lee survived by teaching school and minding his own business. It was in these years that his discretion was honed to a fine edge, his friends recalled.

Flowers for His Idol

When Dr. Rhee returned to Korea in 1945 under the auspices of the United States Government, Mr. Rhee stood quietly at the plane ramp at Kimpo Air Port, holding a small bunch of flowers toward his idol.

From that moment, Mr. Lee has been either at Dr. Rhee's side or off on missions for him.

So close has been the relationship that, several years ago, Dr. Rhee adopted Mr. Lee's elder son, Rhee Kang Suk, a 25-year-old lieutenant in the Korean Army. Dr. Rhee, married to a Viennese woman, the former Francesca Donner, was childless. With the adoption completed, Mr. Lee said.

"I am honored and happy. You see, I still have a son."

RHEE IS PLANNING BETTER TOKYO TIES

South Korean Leader Looks to U. S. Help for Accord With Japan in 4th Term

By ROBERT TRUMBULL

Special to The New York Times.

SEOUL, Korea, March 19—President Syngman Rhee of South Korea said today that he would seek better relations with Japan in his fourth term, possibly through the good offices of the United States.

"I am not known as a friend of Japan particularly, but in the present changing situation and the unsettled condition of Asia it is important that Japan and Korea get together," Dr. Rhee said in an interview.

President Rhee, who will be 85 years old next Saturday, fought against the Japanese occupation of Korea. He returned to Seoul from a long exile after the country was liberated in 1945 with Japan's capitulation in World War II.

Upon the establishment of a republic in South Korea in 1948, Dr. Rhee became the first president and the only one South Korea has had. He was returned to office for a fourth four-year term Tuesday. Unopposed because of the death in Washington last month of his opponent, Dr. Chough Pyong Ok, Dr. Rhee received a record vote of 88 per cent of the ballots cast.

No Diplomatic Tie With Japan

Apparently in fine health and spirits after his endorsement at the polls, President Rhee indicated today a conciliatory turn of mind toward Japan. The two countries have had no diplomatic relations and South Korea broke off regular trade with Japan last year when Tokyo permitted Korean residents to return to North Korea.

Washington has been urging Japan and South Korea to try to come to an accommodation. United States pressure is thought to have been at least partly responsible for an accord for the release of Japanese trespassers in Korean fishing preserves in exchange for Korean illegal entrants held in Japan.

President Rhee said in the interview that he was willing to negotiate with Japan on the controversial fishing zone proclaimed by Seoul. Open-sea areas from which South Korea bars Japanese fishing boats run as far as sixty miles off the Korean coast.

Other issues between Seoul and Tokyo include the Rhee Government's demand for the return of Korean cultural treasures removed to Japan, property claims, restitution of Korean gold reserves that Seoul says were appropriated by Tokyo, and payment of compensation to thousands of Koreans in Japan who Dr. Rhee says were taken there as "forced labor."

Dr. Rhee has occasionally be-



PAN-ASIA

CONCILIATORY: President Syngman Rhee of South Korea, who said he hoped to improve country's relations with the Japanese.

come so exasperated with what he regards as stalling tactics by Japan that he has said several times that the Japanese, more than the North Korean Communists, are Korea's enemy No. 1.

However, he is also undoubtedly Asia's most outspokenly anti-Communist leader.

"The Japanese have said, for example, that they have had no time to attend conferences on these problems," President Rhee said today. "If they have no Minister available for conferences, I don't mind if they tell a Foreign Office bellboy to meet with the Korean envoys."

Meanwhile, the police raised the official figure of the number of dead in an election day riot at Masan, a southern port, from four to ten. It was said that the additional six had died of injuries suffered in a demonstration that the police quelled with tear gas and firing of carbines.

"Without a tradition of 100 or 200 years of democracy, Korea is doing remarkably well," President Rhee asserted. "Some observers come here to look only for faults, but fact-minded fact-finding reporters will see that we are not doing bad things," he said.

Dr. Rhee appeared unusually vigorous for his age. Although the years have left marks that are becoming more apparent, he still keeps physically fit by walking for an hour every day in the hills behind his Presidential residence.

Times 3-20-60

Times 3-17-60

RHEE OPENS DOOR TO A COMPROMISE

Korean President Holds He
Would Make Deal With Reds
if U. N. Gave Guarantee

By CHARLES GRUTZNER
Special to The New York Times

SEOUL, Korea, Dec. 4—President Syngman Rhee said today he would be willing to compromise with the Chinese Communists if the United Nations accepted responsibility for seeing to it that the Communists kept whatever agreement would be reached.

The 75-year-old head of the Republic of Korea expressed his compromise idea reluctantly in a roundabout way after having told a press conference that he believed that "no compromise will work" because "the Communists have several times proved themselves unable to keep international agreements."

He said later that a compromise undrawn by the United Nations would "be a different thing," and that his Government would consider it with such a guarantee.

President Rhee himself brought up the idea of a buffer zone between Korea and Manchuria as the means for a possible compromise. Elaborating on his original premise that little faith could be put into agreements with the Communists, he said, "If we have any neutral zone—entirely in North Korea, entirely in Manchuria or partly in both—we have no way of being guaranteed that they will keep on their own side of the zone."

The President then said he would be willing, however, to compromise to avoid a world war if the United Nations guaranteed that the terms were kept.

Dr. Rhee's words were taken to

Continued on Page 6, Column 3

RHEE OPENS DOOR TO A COMPROMISE

Continued From Page 1

mean a softening of his attitude, since his earlier declarations had stressed that the only thing to do against Communist aggression was to crush it with force.

Although he described the military situation as "serious but not desperate," Dr. Rhee obviously was under great pressure as a result of the victorious surge of the Chinese Communists toward the Thirty-eighth Parallel, the imminent loss of Pyongyang and the growing alarm among the Seoul populace that the Reds might again take this Republican capital.

One indication of the increasing tension was the ordering of the National Assembly into special emergency session today as soon as a quorum could be gathered.

The Assembly adjourned last week and was scheduled to meet again Dec. 20. An emergency call was sent out by eighty-five members in a dramatic session this morning. Under the Constitution, a special session may be ordered by the President or more than fifty members of the 210-seat South Korean Legislature.

At today's meeting, the Assemblymen voted unanimously for a session within a week if a quorum was obtainable that soon. They resolved to send a special message to President Truman, the United Nations General Assembly and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, requesting weapons to arm all Koreans for "a fight to the death."

Emotions Run High

Emotions ran high as Nam Song Hak, leader of a fifty-member party group, denounced what were termed recent British and French efforts at "appeasement" in the suggestion of a buffer zone in North Korea.

President Rhee has held several recent secret meetings with the Cabinet to ponder the military defeats, but has hesitated calling a special session in fear of creating public panic. Alarm now is discernible in many faces in Seoul's streets and in conversations in homes and tearooms.

The worsening military situation in the last two days seems to have convinced Dr. Rhee that there is no point in minimizing the threat to Seoul any longer. Answering question at today's conference whether he believed the Reds might halt their present drive at the Thirty-eighth Parallel, which is thirty miles above this capital, the President said bluntly:

"If they plan to keep on their side of the parallel, why did they cross the parallel last June? I believe their plan is to conquer all Korea."

He added that "this time" the Seoul populace would receive sufficient notice to flee the city if a Red invasion appeared likely. The Government had been criticized for having fled Seoul last June while the populace was being assured it had nothing to fear.

Blames Red Sympathizers

Dr. Rhee said he had not been here when that happened, and that the false security reports had been the work of Communist sympathizers.

The President reiterated his plea for more planes, tanks and weapons for the Republican forces, and recalled that he had requested such aid from the United States and advice from the United Nations even before the war. Having called two days ago on the people to arm themselves and "turn every village into an armed camp," Dr. Rhee implied today that they should use every stick of bamboo and every spear for defense against the Communists.

"Let me say again that we are not fighting communism as an ideology," he declared. "The Korean Communists all call the Soviet Government their fatherland. They insist in destroying Korea and making it part of the Soviet Union."

"That is what the Korean people are fighting against."

Dr. Rhee said he did not believe that the war would have been ended if the United Nations forces had stopped at the Thirty-

READY TO COMPROMISE



President Syngman Rhee
The New York Times

Eighth Parallel after having driven out the invaders from South Korea, or if they had halted after the capture of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

The President declared he did not believe the Communists "will stop anywhere unless they are stopped." He added that the

N.Y. Times
12/5/50

KOREAN PRESIDENT HONORS U.S. GENERAL



Syngman Rhee presenting the Presidential Unit Citation of his country to Maj. Gen. Earle E. Partridge, commander of the Fifth Air Force, who accepted the decoration in behalf of all the members of Fifth Air Force Headquarters.

U. S. Air Force

N.Y. Times 3/10/51

1953

FOREIGN NEWS

KOREA

The Walnut

(See Cover)

In a refugee camp a few miles outside Seoul last week, Ahn Nam-chang and her family were getting ready to go home. Nam-chang's husband was one of at least a million South Korean civilian casualties in the early days of the war, but she has a hunch that her old father is still living on his two-acre farm near Munsan. Nam-chang has three children. As if that were not enough, she has adopted a little girl—one of Korea's 100,000 war orphans—who would most likely have died if Mrs. Ahn had not taken her in. The U.N. Civil Assistance Command has been looking after the Ahns for a couple of years; the kids are outfitted in olive-drab pants. Mrs. Ahn wears a dogskin neckpiece, a relic of the old days, of which she is very fond; at 31, a widow in a country where widows are unwanted, Mrs. Ahn has not much to look forward to, but if she can find her father, they will make a home.

On the roads that wind from Seoul to Munsan, to Uijongbu and farther east, in

central and eastern Korea, many families like the Ahns were on the move last week. In a thousand hamlets and settlements, some within sound of artillery on the stalemated battlefront, the blue-grey ashes of prewar villages were being raked aside, raw pine uprights were being planted, and women & children were combing through the rice straw for thatching for new roofs. Of the 22 million people in South Korea, about a fourth are homeless. No matter how hard and hopefully they work they cannot soon replace their 600,000 destroyed homes, nor provide the 250,000 new dwellings necessary to shelter the refugees from the north.

North & South. After nearly three years of war, there is not much left of Korea. North of the 38th parallel the devastation is immense. U.N. intelligence estimates that bombing and strafing have destroyed 40% of all habitations of any kind; U.N. bombers no longer have profitable targets. The civilian population has diminished from 8,000,000 to perhaps 4,000,000—killed in the bombing, dead from malnutrition or cold, fled to the South for freedom, or carried off by the

Communist occupiers. The North Korean army is a shadow: perhaps only 50,000 soldiers remain of their once formidable corps. The North Koreans have been beaten; it is their occupiers, the Chinese Communists, that U.N. armies now face.

In South Korea, the military picture is better, thanks to the might & main of the U.S., to the lesser but nonetheless real help of 14 other U.N. nations, to the tenacity of the South Koreans themselves, and to the singular dedication of Korea's first & only President, Syngman Rhee. A 400,000-man ROK army, including twelve fully equipped divisions in the line, guards the young republic from further invasion and is building so fast that it may soon be strong enough to take over the whole front. It already holds more than half.

But back of that line, shadows gather in the picture. Destruction is widespread. The capital city of Seoul is 80% uninhabitable. Public buildings everywhere lie in ruins, public utility services are makeshift, and two-thirds of the schools are unusable. Only in the South's gaunt era of Reconstruction after the Civil War is there a U.S. parallel to what Rhee and his people are up against. The economy is shot to pieces. Some 75% of all mines and textile factories have suffered severe damage. Those industries which can function lack parts for maintenance and equipment for repair. The draft has absorbed much of the country's youth, but there are still thousands of unemployed. Resourceful businessmen struggle with makeshift merchandise: they offer for sale cooking utensils fashioned from the aluminum of wrecked planes, buckets beaten out of old oleomargarine cans, canoe-shaped rubber sneakers made from worn-out truck tires, men's & women's clothing cut from discarded (and pilfered) U.S. Army uniforms.

A newly arrived U.N. officer, after a first look at Korean fashions, cracked: "U.S. olive drab seems to be the Korean national color." With thoughts hardly less superficial, thousands of soldiers have moved backwards & forwards over this small republic (slightly smaller than Indiana), fighting its invaders, and sometimes laying down their lives in its defense. Overwhelmed by the physical aspect of war, they have no means of assessing the stark inner tragedy. The U.N. soldier does not know that a Korean schoolteacher's salary will buy her only 16 lbs. of uncooked rice and ten cups of coffee a month; that a Korean doctor sells penicillin on the black market because his income is less than \$10 a month.

Won & Lost. Last week in a moldering, pagoda-roofed hall in Pusan, once used by Japanese occupiers as a wrestling arena, South Korea's National Assembly met to consider measures for halting the galloping inflation which has made a sad joke of wages and salaries. Diesel oil and kerosene fumes from six U.S. Army space heaters mingled with the heavy smell of



KOREAN CHILDREN & G.I.

Olive drab is now the national color.

United Press

garlic in the rear of the hall, where several hundred curious but impassive spectators watched the proceedings.

Nine days earlier the government had announced a very simple expedient for curing inflation: withdraw the present currency (won) and replace it with a new currency (hwan), at 100 won for one hwan. The question which occupied the Assembly was what proportion of existing bank deposits would be temporarily blocked from this trade-in. As the government worded the bill, a wide assortment of Koreans, from black-marketeers to most of the political opposition, would have 75% of their funds frozen.

Finance Minister Paik To Chin, poised and confident in a neat brown business suit, thought he had the Assembly exactly where he wanted it. Then the Assembly threw its bombshell: practically all existing won, it decided, should be convertible into hwan. Rather than have any part of their own private funds blocked, many Assemblymen were prepared to wreck the government's chances of curbing inflation.

The fact that there was a semblance of order at all—in finance or in government—was still something of a miracle. It was due, in almost every respect, to a remarkable old man: President Syngman Rhee, 78, stern fighter for Korea's freedom over more than half a century.

The Uncrackable. Syngman Rhee is the walnut of Asian politics. Brown, wrinkled, iron-shelled, he calmly resists the tremendous pressure of managing his tragic country.

Seated a few yards from him, the visitor does not notice the marks of strain—the extended eyelids, the twitching right eye, the flaccid skin—but sees only the hard, skeptical eyes, the restless energy of the small frame. Rhee is the last of the old heroes of the Korean struggle for independence, a man with long memories. Just outside Seoul lie the ruins of Westgate prison, where the Emperor Koh's jailers spliced Rhee's fingers between wooden wands which the jailers twisted until his fingers were almost ripped from the joints; there he was imprisoned for seven years.

As a youth, Rhee had attended the Pai Chai Methodist Mission school, and now the missionaries and their wives visited him in jail. There he became converted to Christianity. When the Japanese took over Korea in 1904, Rhee was released in a general amnesty and immediately went to the U.S. For six years he studied in American universities, got an M.A. from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Princeton. Back in Korea, while heading up a Korean Christian student movement, he began undercover agitation against the Japanese. When the conquerors got his number, he slipped off to Hawaii in 1912. He was to be an exile from his native land for 33 years.

Head Worth \$300,000. In Seoul the revolutionaries set up an underground provisional government, named Rhee as first president *in absentia*. The Japanese began a bloody purge of the nationalists and put



Howard Sochurek—LIFE

MADAME RHEE

Her voice makes poppa smile.

a price of \$300,000 on Rhee's head. At a conference in Shanghai in 1920 the Korean nationalists laid plans for organized military action against the Japanese. Later, when the Japanese army attacked Manchuria, a 20,000-man Korean national army fought beside Chinese soldiers.

None of these events have been forgotten by Korean patriots, for whom the national struggle for independence is as much in living memory as the American Revolution was in the minds of Americans in the early 1800s. Thus, to his countrymen, Rhee has something of the stature of George Washington; and if his people have not yet heard of a Korean Thomas Jefferson, it is because the political climate of Korea (and Rhee himself) is against the free development of such a typically democratic figure.

Vigilant Momma. In 1932, while attempting to put Korea's case before an indifferent League of Nations in Geneva, Rhee met Francesca Maria Barbara Donner, 34, the daughter of a family of Viennese iron merchants. Two years later they were married in a Methodist ceremony in New York. The Rhees live in a modest mansion on the rolling hillside behind Seoul, only 30 miles south of the front. In their household Madame Rhee maintains constant vigilance.

A small, alert woman with greying hair and bright hazel eyes, she has lost none of her Viennese animation. Her billowing dresses are tailored for an Austrian peasant effect. She talks lightly of Washington society, Hong Kong social intrigue, New York or Paris fashions. But the observant visitor is not misled: Madame Rhee is a woman attuned to politics and power. She is present, or in the background, of most vital meetings. When she and Rhee met, their common language was English. Today she professes to have forgotten the German of her youth, and her English is

so much better than Rhee's that she often helps him out in difficult interviews. She also speaks what she calls "kitchen Korean." In that language she needles the President's lagging stenographers and orders his luncheons, and keeps tab on Rhee's police organization. Korean generals and politicians pay her immense deference.

Never Underestimate . . . The extent to which Madame Rhee influences Korean politics is a matter of fascinated conjecture for all who have seen the Rhees together. Some have even gone so far as to say that Madame Rhee is the power behind the presidency, but the truth seems to be that the couple act in concert; in her own right Madame Rhee is a clever, strong, ever-watchful helpmate. At home and in politics it is "the Rhees," a political relationship like that which once existed between Madame and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Rhee's day begins at 6 with a Western-style breakfast of toast, coffee, ham & eggs, after which the President likes to walk his Chin-do dog through the garden. He then goes through the newspapers with his secretary and scans reports from his embassies and ministries. Last week he received a letter written in blood purporting to be Acting Premier Paik To Chin's confession that he was a Communist. Rhee spotted the letter as a fraud, and investigation disclosed that it had been written in chicken blood by the madame of a Seoul tea house at the instigation of one of Paik's enemies. No detail is too small for Rhee's personal attention.

After his correspondence, the President, as he says, "settles down to the day's work," which may include 30 to 35 interviews or an official tour. Time & again he has climbed in & out of planes and jeeps on tours of the freezing Korean battlefield, stood stiffly to attention during the playing of the Korean or U.S. national anthems, the wind winnowing his thin white hair, his battered grey felt hat clutched to his breast. But on other occasions, particularly when he is tired, the aged President will droop. Whenever Madame Rhee thinks that a visitor has overstayed, she will interrupt with some such remark as "Poppa, do you haff coffee or tea this afternoon?" Hearing her voice, Rhee's thousand-wrinkled face will crease into a smile. In private the President calls Madame Rhee "Momma," and in recent months he has needed all her solicitude.

Government, as Rhee practices it, is almost a one-man job. He has a few trusted cabinet ministers, such as Acting Premier Paik To Chin and Information Minister Clarence Rye. Below them are a number of lesser ministers and government officials who cautiously conform to Rhee's wishes. Government favors can be obtained only through Rhee and this circle of his intimates. All foreign exchange allocations for more than \$500, for example, must be personally approved by Rhee. Imposed to ensure the strictest honesty in government operations, this control has its drawbacks: important decisions inevitably await the President's approval, and

when he is incapacitated they await his recovery. Said a Rhee official last week: "When the old man is sick, Korea is sick."

Sovereign Trust. In pursuing this policy, Rhee may well be moved by real distrust of Korea's manipulating politicians. But there is something more to his actions than counter-manipulation: his passionate belief that he governs by sovereign right conferred on him by the Korean people. This belief he clearly demonstrated in his row with the National Assembly last year. According to Korea's five-year-old constitution, the Assembly elects the President. Rhee's term being about to expire, the Assembly wished to exercise its constitutional right. Since the majority were opposed to Rhee, this meant a new man in the job. Among the aspirants was ex-Premier John Myun Chang, a U.S.-educated (Fordham) intellectual.

Rhee insisted that the President should be chosen by vote of the people. The Assembly said no. Rhee declared martial law, had his cops arrest twelve Assemblymen, charged them with being Communist plotters, and sent a mob of his supporters to storm the Assembly chamber. Aspirant Chang took refuge in a U.S. Army hospital. Rhee threatened to pull out a couple of ROK divisions from the line to back up his police, hesitated only when his good friend, Eighth Army Commander Van Fleet, flew to Pusan and told the President that this would mean an open rupture with the U.N. forces. When the Voice of America commented on his action, Rhee cut it off the air and invoked a censorship of news and publications. To an official note of protest from the U.S., he retorted: "I know you don't like me and I don't care." The truncated Assembly finally voted him an extension of his term, and in the August elections (which U.N. observers deemed fair) the people voted Rhee back into the presidency by an overwhelming majority. Thus his claim to sovereignty was justified.

Democracy's Price. In conversation Rhee defends his attitude by saying: "The Assembly can be bought by anyone—by anyone." So far, the internal Communist threat in South Korea, except for guerrillas, has been confined to minor sabotage and espionage. But, with a huge Chinese Communist army still in North Korea, the threat is real.

The great strength of Syngman Rhee is his single-minded devotion to his country and its independence. This leaves him with no illusions whatever about Communism. Says Rhee: "It is perfectly clear to me that Communism can be defeated only by war. . . . What we must bring about is the one event that the Soviet system cannot survive—a setback, a defeat. It must be a defeat that cannot be concealed from the people of Russia and the satellite countries. If we ever manage that, the system will fall. The people of Russia and the satellites will rise and throw off Communism; of that I am convinced. But they will never do it unless the fears and weaknesses of the Communist regime are exposed, and this can only be done by a

military defeat, not by a political defeat. Our only chance of escaping a third world war is to inflict such a defeat in one of the little wars, perhaps this war."

When the peace talks began in Kaesong nearly two years ago, Rhee denounced them as another Communist trick, and added, blusteringly, that if the U.N. were to sign a truce, the South Korean army would advance to the Yalu itself. Rhee's truculence is echoed by many Koreans, and for understandable reasons: without the power resources, the fertilizer factories and the iron mines of North Korea, the republic is doomed to economic mendicancy. When President Eisenhower visited Korea last December, Syngman Rhee insisted that the condition of any settlement must be unification of Korea.

Oral Opposition. Before the Communists' invasion of South Korea in 1950, and again during the period when North



LEE BUM SUK
Too close for comfort.

Korean Reds occupied Seoul, South Korean intellectuals flocked north to the Communists like magpies to a ripe rice-field. For some the change was permanent: they are now entrenched with the Communist government in the north. But a few doubters elected to remain with Rhee's government and see what time would bring. During the past 18 months, those who remained have lost their doubts. In Pusan this week, in a coffee shop lighted by one feebly glowing electric light bulb, a reporter talked with a South Korean newspaperman who had planned originally to defect to the Communists, but who at the last minute had changed his mind. Critical of Rhee, protesting that the old man's stubbornness has cost his nation dearly, he, nevertheless, is a staunch Rhee supporter on the straightforward ground that Rhee is the strongest political force in Korea today.

Stocky, sharp-faced Journalist Paik

Chung Muk, 38, is foreign-educated (Japan and Germany) and possessor of a biting intellectual intensity. Said he: "I read every work Harold Laski wrote. I worshiped him for years. Then I realized I was wrong. Now I am back on more solid ground." What had wrought the change? Paik downed the equivalent of half a jigger of Four Roses whisky from a cracked porcelain cup, chased it with a handful of warm pine nuts, and went on: "Many of my former friends are now with the Communists in the north. I almost went with them. Now I know why they—and very nearly myself—were wrong. It is the same reason so many of you, the Americans, are wrong about us. You want, and we wanted, too much too quickly. Now I know and my friends know that our crime was impatience. Some people turn this around and call it a lack of trust. But it was not that. It was impatience, a grinding desire to achieve our hearts' desires overnight."

"Enough to Start With." Paik brushed away a strand of black hair from his forehead. He said: "I have talked with more Americans in the last two years than I thought I would see in my lifetime. I know that your greatest crime, in terms of political expectations from us, is impatience. You want too much too quickly."

"Every time I meet a foreigner, the first question I am usually asked is something about freedom of speech, or freedom of the press. At first I used to try and explain that, compared with some of my friends who went north, the answer was definitely yes. Now, when I hear these questions, I would like to slap these people's stupid faces. . . . Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of this, freedom of that. Here in Korea, now, such questions are idiotic. Freedom, my friend, is a very relative thing. Now we have a little—more than the Communists, but still not much. But we have enough to start with. Meantime, don't push us too hard, don't ask too much too soon." Paik added: "You will be here for a long time. You will see."

In the Long Run. Forty years of Japanese occupation left Korea with few people trained in government. Thus, the Rhee administration rests upon 80,000 full-time, government-paid national police and some 120,000 volunteer provincial police who are paid by the towns and villages where they work, *i.e.*, about one cop to every 100 population. In many parts of Korea, particularly in the country, police rule constitutes the government. Thus, Rhee is cautious about who controls the police organization, prefers to have two or three factions contending with one another. In the same way, he has never publicly nominated his successor, and one of the severest criticisms of this proud old man is that he has let no one else around him gain power or prominence. In the election last August, Rhee named 52-year-old Lee Bum Suk to run as Vice President, but suddenly dropped this tough, whisky-drinking ex-Chinese Nationalist general from his ticket, when Lee seemed to be developing a popularity of his own. Syngman

Rhee, in U.S., Restates Goal: Ouster of Reds From North

*South Korean Leader Hails American Aid
on Arrival in Capital, but Regrets That
'Cold Feet' Halted March to Yalu*

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 26 — President Syngman Rhee of South Korea arrived today for a state visit and immediately restated his ultimate goal—the expulsion of Communists from North Korea and the unification of his homeland.

While warmly praising his United States friends for their courage and help, he mourned nevertheless that "a little cold feet" and not enough courage halted a march to the Yalu River, a march that would have given him the national unity he sought.

The 79-year-old President spoke at the airport a few minutes after stepping from the plane that brought him and Mrs. Rhee across the Pacific. His tone was friendly rather than peppery, even if his words did run beyond the pleasantries to which visiting statesmen usually limit themselves in public on diplomatic missions.

He seemed to be touched by the welcome. He last visited Washington in 1947, but he saw President Eisenhower at a battle-line conference in the fall of 1952.

He spoke of Washington as his "second home town." He spent many years here as an exile. He was graduated from George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1907. That institution will confer a Doctor of Laws degree on him Friday.

Official talks on Korea's problems will start tomorrow in President Eisenhower's office and will be continued at the State Department.

President Rhee was greeted at the airport by a delegation of civil and military officials headed by Vice President Richard M. Nixon. The wives of most of these officials were present to

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