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April 26, 1960

V. [unclear]

Mr. Gerald D. Morgan/
The Deputy Assistant to The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Gerry:

Attached is a brief memorandum regarding
the allegations of communist complicity in recent
South Korean events.

Sincerely,

(Signed) ALLEN W. DULLES

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enclosure

AWD:at

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Allegations regarding communist participation in the South Korean political crisis.

(1) The South Korean Home Ministry, following the riots at Masan on election day, 15 March, announced that the trouble reflected communist tactics.

(2) On 13 April, after violence again erupted, President Rhee stated publicly, "It is suspected that the communists are behind the present riot. Such riots present the communists with a welcome opportunity."

(3) A few days later the principal government newspaper devoted front page headlines to alleged "communist activities" in connection with the riots.

(4) On 20 April the Pusan provincial police chief ordered a search for all persons having communist connections.

(5) President Rhee on 19 April stated to Ambassador McConaughy that Vice President Chang Myon and other opposition political leaders were in league with unidentified "subversive ring-leaders who had planned the entire movement." Four days later Rhee shifted the alleged responsibility to a "Chang Myon-directed Catholic Church conspiracy."

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(6) Ambassador Yang here in Washington in private meetings with State Department officials and in public statements had claimed that the riots were communist instigated. However, in announcing his resignation in Washington today, Yang is reported to have said he had been instructed by his government "to say that there was communist involvement...but I have been informed...that there was no communist involvement...therefore, I want publicly to apologize..."

(7) Army Chief of Staff, Lt. General Song, in a press briefing on 23 April, stated that no evidence had been found that the communists influenced the demonstrations.

(8) As far as we know, no credible evidence has been received here in Washington to substantiate any claims of communist instigation or direct participation. Of course communist propaganda media in North Korea and elsewhere are exploiting the South Korean disorders.