

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Purge of High North Korean Labor Party Officials and North Korean Writers	DATE DISTR.	2 June 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>		

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1. The chief of the Propaganda Bureau of the Haeju City Labor Party announced at a late February meeting of the party that PAK Hon-yong, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, CHU Yong-ha, Minister of Communications and former Ambassador to the U.S.S.R., and YI Sung-yop, Chairman of the National Inspection Committee and former Minister of Justice, were removed from their offices in February.¹ The Haeju propaganda chief said they were ousted for violating Labor Party regulations and for aiding "reactionary" elements. He said PAK had received a strict warning from the party and that CHU and YI were expelled. He added that an investigation was being made into lower echelons of the government.
2. On 25 March the Labor News Press stated that CHU Yong-ha had secretly expounded anti-Soviet propaganda to Korean students studying in the U.S.S.R.; had no respect for KIM Il-song and had failed to give self-criticism at a party meeting.
3. YI Sung-yop, former chairman of the Seoul People's Committee during the North Korean occupation of Seoul, had conducted espionage against North Korean partisans in South Korea. He also had tried to organize another party within the Labor Party. YI had planned to escape to South Korea if he were discovered but he was arrested before he could carry out his plans. PAK Hon-yong knew of YI's activities but had overlooked them.
4. In early March the Labor News Press stated that YI T'ae-chun (2621/3141/0193), IM Hwa (2651/0735), and about 20 other writers were "members of a reactionary group who, through their writings, had paralyzed the people's revolutionary awakening and prevented hostile feelings toward the enemy." The Ministry of Education banned the writings of YI T'ae-chun and IM Hwa from the schools.

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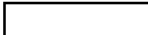
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1.  Comment. PAK Hŏn-yŏng and CHU Yong-ha have been previously listed as members of an unpopular faction within the North Korean Labor Party. PAK's name has not appeared in North Korean news dispatches since March 1953. Radio P'yongyang carried a statement 19 May issued by YI Tong-kun, acting Foreign Minister.

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