



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



April 26, 1960

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)

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release
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[REDACTED]
(6) Ambassador Yang here in Washington [REDACTED] in public statement [REDACTED] 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.