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23 May 1961

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Korea: [South Korea's revolutionary government is still consolidating its power and neutralizing elements which might oppose it. Colonel Kim Chong-pil, who is reported to be the principal adviser of the coup strongman, Major General Pak Chong-hui, told an American official on 22 May that everyone involved in the new regime has been too busy with internal affairs to pay much attention to relationships with the United States. He asserted that the United States should not be concerned, since the revolutionary leadership was anti-Communist and pro-US. The officer said that this was true despite the resentment engendered by statements of American officials in Seoul on 16 May, which had urged support of the former Chang Myon government]

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[The adviser to Pak admitted that military command principles in relation to the UN Command had been violated, but said that the intent was to make the relationship between South Korean military forces and the UN Command as close as in the past. He said the leadership feels that Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Chang To-yong has too many duties in the present arrangement--he is chairman of the Supreme Council for National Reconstruction, head of the cabinet, and minister of defense--and that a new chief of staff should be appointed.]

Interservice rivalries and tension between the senior and the more numerous junior officers of the revolutionary leadership are continuing. The marines and paratroops in Seoul are reported to have refused on 21 May to obey an order by Chang To-yong to return to their camps. [ ]

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Korea

[REDACTED]

Apprehension appears to be growing among civilians who originally supported the coup or were apathetic to the overthrow of the Chang Myon government over the adoption of increasingly repressive tactics by the revolutionary leaders. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] some 3,000 persons have been arrested, but it is unclear how many are hoodlums and criminals and how many are political offenders. Most newspapers have been forced to adopt a position of complete endorsement of the new regime and give a distorted picture of American reaction implying that Washington supports the revolution.

Meanwhile, new Foreign Minister Kim Hong-il appears to be attempting to allay American concern regarding the

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revolutionary government. At his first press conference Kim gave assurances that the new government's foreign policy will not differ basically from that of the Chang Myon administration. He added that negotiations would be continued for the normalization of South Korean - Japanese relations and that the new regime opposed the "march North" unification policy of the old Rhee government. Kim is a former South Korean ambassador to Nationalist China and a retired lieutenant general. He is believed to be strongly anti-Communist and to favor an authoritarian government similar to that of Chiang Kai-shek on Taiwan.

Peiping's People's Daily, in an editorial of 21 May, claims the US "stage-managed the coup" and labels the coup leaders "fascist." Pyongyang has broadcast reports of atrocities allegedly perpetrated by US personnel and has depicted the coup as a US-sponsored effort to "force more unbearable calamities on the South Korean people."

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