FROM: Seoul
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 219, November 19

FROM CG USAPMK TO STATE DEPARTMENT INFO JCS, CINCPFE CITE ZPOL 1936. COULTER SENDS FOR MUCCI

President Rhee today requested following message be transmitted from him to President Truman:

"In the light of the recent development in China, I should like to remind your Excellency, that the Korean people are deeply concerned over the reported withdrawal of the American troops from Korea soon. In view of the fact, that we do not feel our security forces adequate at this time to defend the country against a major onslaught from without and within, I have requested that a military and naval mission of the United States be established in Korea now, to help train and equip our defense forces as fast as possible. The Communist successes in China have released large forces of the Communist Army for potential invasion of South Korea. Widely circulated, continued reports that the so-called People's Republic intends to remove from its 'temporary capital' in Pyongyang to Seoul indicate that the Communists are attempting to create alarm and panic among the people in the south. While recent planned uprising in two southern districts have been crushed the remnants of the disloyal forces continue to disturb the peace by murder and arson, wherever possible. The loyal security forces are able to control these disloyal elements. But the recurrent outbreaks of organized assaults against the people"

DISSENIRED
20 Nov 1948, 1243 and 1054 a.m.

CIR 17 Sept 1948, 10 Aug 1948

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Confidential

-2-219, November 19 from Seoul

the people is feared and the public may at any time lose
hope and courage beyond the ability of the security forces
to deal with.

I believe that the completion of organization of competent
national defense forces can be achieved within a short time.
Our failure to reach that objective sooner is due to the
fact that the transfer of various departments of the govern-
ment and properties which is still in progress requires
time and the new government is only beginning to function.
Dissident elements which succeeded in infiltration into the
constabulary in the period of its formation have not yet
been entirely eliminated. Therefore, it is imperative that
until the complete loyalty of all the defense forces is
assured and until the defense forces are capable in dealing
with any threat from without or within the country, the
United States maintain an occupation force for the time
being and establish a military and naval mission as a
deterrent to aggression and consequent civil war."

My comment on President Rhee's message follows in separate
telegram.

MAN: EC

MUCCIO