

U. S. M I L I T A R Y A I D

RHEE TELLS PUBLIC OF U. S. ARMS AID

Seoul, in Korean to Korea, June 27, 1950, 1315 GMT--B

(Speech delivered by President Syngman Rhee)

(Text)

"... what I have continuously and proudly said on five or six occasions in the past is that military aid is coming from the United States of America. I have said so because I believed and knew that it was coming. However, in a democracy this takes time and for quite a considerable time I have remained silent, for it appeared for a time as if what I said were fruitless.

"Now our enemies are closing in on us from all directions, employing heavy arms, including airplanes, tanks, and warships. Braving the adverse conditions, our armed forces and police are fighting (successfully) in all directions.

"(Yesterday) in the Uijongbu area the enemy forces were surging forward, (under cover of) heavy arms, including scores of tanks. At first our forces, unprepared as they were, did not know what to do to cope with the situation but subsequently they attempted to destroy the tanks by burying land mines in their path. However, the enemy men halted their tanks, got out, removed the land mines, and surged forward as before. Our forces attempted to check them by shooting with rifles those who were engaged in removing the land mines. However, while the enemy carried long-range rifles, our men did not have such arms.

"It was thus difficult to meet the enemy forces arm-for-arm, but our men even fought empty-handed. Nevertheless, the enemy forces (kept up their advances) and reached a point only a few scores of li (one Korean li approximately 400 meters--Ed.) from the outskirts of Seoul.

Arouses U. S. Officials

"Seeing the situation, I got in touch with Washington and Tokyo by telegram and telephone at night and in the early hours of the morning, and spoke to General MacArthur, as well as to President Truman (through our ambassador to Washington. What I said is, when our enemy is knocking at our doors, our comrades-in-arms cannot sit back coolly.



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"Give us arms and we, together with American friends in America, Japan, and Korea, will be able to hold our national border defenses. I appealed to Truman that (it is regrettable) that the 10 million dollar aid, which passed the American Congress and which was sanctioned by the American President, had not yet arrived here when we are facing such an emergency.

"Meanwhile, Ambassador Muccio (pleaded with Washington and Tokyo regarding the urgent situation ...) It was not until this afternoon that I received a telegram from General MacArthur and, desirous of informing our fellow countrymen (of the important words contained in the telegram), I am breaking my silence and passing you the glad tidings.

"MacArthur's telegram reads: '(have profound faith. Important operations are under way. Sufficient aid is on its way),' signed MacArthur.

"(Also, according to urgent information which has come to hand), aid to our country is arriving in the form of an air force and navy (but there is a condition: that these forces should be used only for defense south of the 38th Parallel.)

Arms Supplies Begin

"This afternoon there will arrive (fighter bombers) which will rout the enemy forces and light bombers to destroy enemy tanks. Also, General Church is to leave Tokyo immediately for Seoul to act as an advisor to our national defense, while a number of high-ranking staff officers (will also arrive, and munitions supplies are on their way now, which will be followed by more.)

"(Under the present circumstances it is understandable that the people are seeking refuge). Countries more powerful than us are going under Communist influences and some already have gone under (... we can check the onslaught of the Communist forces). In order to surmount our dangers, our armed forces must fight vigorously (until aid arrives ...).

"Here (I would like to express my gratitude to our armed forces and police all along the 38th Parallel from the Ongjin peninsula in the west to the eastern seaboard and along the eastern coast, who are fighting vigorously against the enemies. Particularly, I thank the armed forces in the Uijongbu area who have been fighting valiantly without any considerable arms. ...)



"(Only by demonstrating our courage, valor and determination in our fight against the enemy to the world family of nations can we expect aid from them and attain unification for South and North Korea. ... meanwhile, I trust that all the citizens will carry on their tasks calmly while making war efforts, displaying their courage and patriotism ...)"

(Remainder of the speech concerning war efforts and attempts to convert Communists was unintelligible--Ed.)



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