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14 April 1945

**THE MO POTENTIALITIES IN KOREA**

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SUBJECT: MO Potentialities in Korea

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## INTRODUCTION

The possibilities of Psychological Warfare on so strategic an objective as Korea should not be overlooked. With 97 0/0 of the population under repressive Japanese rule, the basic prerequisite for efficient morale operations is already present.

Growing realization of the critical importance of is shown in Japan by the newly formed (Dec. 29th) Committee for the Investigation of the Political Treatment of Koreans and Formosans, and by the recent granting of voting privileges to Koreans and Formosans; though the vote is ineffective, the fact that the Japanese felt it was necessary to grant it is significant.

Although there is an abundance of useful military information MO intelligence on Korea is scanty. On the basis of available reports, however, it has been possible to set down the vulnerable targets, the available implements and workable propaganda lines to Koreans with some degree of accuracy.

As further intelligence comes in, it can be used to supplement or modify the MO plan suggested in the following pages.

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MO TARGETS IN KOREA

A consideration of Korea's culture and recent history divides the population into the following possible targets:

1. The Japanese troops in Korea
2. The Korean laborer
3. The colonial Japanese
4. The Korean landed aristocracy (yangban)
5. The newly-rich Korean collaborators

Japanese Troops in Korea The vulnerable points of the Japanese occupying troops are the fears of Korean uprisings and Allied invasion. Stress on these points may make them extremely jittery. The Koreans are all potential enemies of the Japanese, and the closer the war swings toward the peninsula, the more suspect they will be. The Japanese are already so nervous that any acts of violence, if exploited by well-timed propaganda could start a vengeful circle of repression and resistance.

The Korean Laborer The Korean laborers have been kept at a low economic level by their Japanese conquerors, and have no opportunity to better themselves under the present system. They are mainly engaged in farming (16,500,000) while commerce and other business each claim 1,500,000. Their numerous grievances offer sound chances for MO exploitation.

The Colonial Japanese The small Japanese storekeepers and tradespeople are very jealous of the important military and

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administrative Japanese officials who have recently come to Korea, and who are scornful of the old-time residents. The middleclass Japanese are very uneasy about Japan's position in Korea, and fear being left behind by the military authorities in the event of invasion.

The Korean Landed Aristocracy Highest in the traditional social scale, the yangban had most of the country's wealth and positions of importance until Japanese occupation. They now serve as figureheads for the Japanese and the gulf dividing them from the common people has increased tremendously.

Wealthy Koreans A new urban class has been formed of Korean collaborator-profiteers; though they are more opportunist than pro-Jap, they are in real danger from the reprisals of their own people. MO has a rich opportunity to hammer on such threats to them as bombing, inflation, vengeance...

#### GENERAL PROPAGANDA THEMES

The following sources of irritation among Koreans may be stressed in propaganda:

Religious Violations The Japanese have tried to replace native religions with Shinto. They enforce gestures of worship toward the Imperial palace. The Koreans are especially sensitive to hints of desecration of tombs or cemeteries connected with their ancestor worship. MO can use reports of roads put through cemeteries and of tombs being fortified and used as gun emplacements and munitions-storage depots.

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Broken Traditions Japs have made strenuous efforts to "Japanize" the Koreans. They have been forced to use the Jap language in all business transactions and schools, and students are required to take Japanese family names. Korean language newspapers have been suppressed. Family collections of silver and brass cutlery have been confiscated and smelted by the Japs, even though they were cherished heirlooms.

Jap Immorality Koreans are highly moral and a standing source of complaint is that the Japanese encourage prostitution. In 1929, mass fighting and strikes were provoked when a Jap student addressed "indecent" remarks to a Korean girl. MO can tie this in with present growing use of women and girls in industry such as a naval munitions plant, and with export of women and girls to Japan for labor. MO can spread reports of Korean girls forcibly placed in Jap "comfort houses" for the army overseas. Jap-sponsored drug-traffic is reported to have caused thousands of addictions in Korea.

Economic Troubles Over 75% of Koreans are in agriculture, with a generally extremely depressed standard of living. Farmers are required to turn over most of their cereal and live-stock produce to Jap warehouses, receiving book credit in exchange. This book credit can only be spent with Jap approval. Inflation and low government prices are farm troubles. There is growing hoarding and black market operation, which might be aggravated by MO lines that the Japs were preparing to stock up the homeland for the final siege

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by stripping Korea of all the current crop and livestock, letting the future take care of itself. Jap food-collection policy is greedy and food rations are extremely meager.

Businessmen's Woes Most Korean small businesses are making only enough for bare maintenance. Labor is scarce and employment plentiful, though the inflation has reduced net wages.

Financial Chaos The current inflation could be played up to alarm all classes. Koreans are forced to put considerable amounts of their earnings in government savings, and a report that these were to be confiscated could cause alarm. Another line might be that the Japanese were contemplating or effecting repudiation of all yen within Korean borders at some specific time, because of Korea's progressively deteriorating financial structure.

Racial Discrimination The Japs have consistently regarded and treated the Koreans as a very inferior race. They are making belated attempts to give the Koreans a feeling they "belong", but the harm is done. All work pays a higher wage to Japs in Korea than to Koreans. Japan has increased general education on primary levels, but the bulk of higher education is available only to Japanese, who also hold most teaching jobs. Only lower-bracket positions are open to Koreans in government, with rare exceptions. Skilled labor positions are largely monopolized by Japs. Jap business concerns are top-heavily favored by legal and economic restrictions. While

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education is compulsory for Japanese children, it is optional for Koreans, hence only about 40-50% of Korean children get even primary education. Therefore fewer Koreans are educationally equipped for responsible jobs (on a percentage basis) even if discrimination in job awards were not practised. R & A reports indicate that Koreans educated in Japan, Europe, or America are the most influential single class among the Koreans.

Abuse of Conscripted Koreans Koreans conscripted into the Jap army complain that discrimination is severe, saying they are treated like prisoners of war and given the worst of everything, including work, food, and medical treatment. They are scattered in Jap units instead of being kept together. Koreans dislike the conscription intensely and many young men flee to the back-country or the Manchurian border region to escape. As Japan's labor shortage grows, conscription demands are growing steadily. Koreans should be vulnerable to MO lines that their conscripts are sacrificed needlessly by the Japs as "cannon fodder", chained to guns, etc. Also that Korean badly wounded or sick are given injections and dumped into ditches with Korean dead and garbage in general. Another line could be that conscription demands are to be much heavier, owing to Jap need for labor, and that women, children, and old men are to be used for manual labor in constructing fortifications, and that they work in factories where chemical fumes are considered too dangerous for Jap labor.

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Police Repression The police in Korea intrude into every phase of Korean life and are widely hated for their harshness. They can levy heavy fines without recourse to courts, and are reputed to use this device to bankrupt and dispossess Koreans. Korean nationals in the police force are almost as severe, probably largely through fear of being observed by Japanese (according to one reporter).

Craving for Freedom See Appendix, "Political Angles."

#### MO IMPLEMENTS FOR USE IN KOREA

The following media are suggested in approaching the Korean population generally:

Radio Korea possesses 167,480 radio receivers. The Japanese on the island have 88,707 sets while the Koreans have 77,996 sets. (1940 figures). A 1941 estimate says there are 220,000 sets altogether, with 56% of Japanese households owning radios and 2% of the Korean households. Short wave radio reception is forbidden.

Rumors The great number of Korean illiterates who receive and transmit news solely by word of mouth insure a wildcat spread of any skillfully contrived stories. Realizing this, the Japanese have made propaganda efforts to counter the spread of rumors. One such attempt is the slogan now in use in Korea: "Rumors are dangerous: avoid spreading them." A particularly good opportunity for rumor spreading is afforded by the country markets where the traveling merchants exchange the latest gossip.

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Leaflets Leaflets to Koreans must be illustrated and written in the colloquial Korean characters. Of the older Koreans, 15% understand Japanese. Of the younger (15 to 30 years), 40% understand Japanese. The literacy of Koreans generally in their own language is 40-50%...and of the Korean Christians, 90%. It is suggested that some bi-lingual leaflets be used also. Air dropping of leaflets is desirable, though there may be better methods of getting them in as the war progresses. (See agents).

Posters Slogan thinking is encouraged by the Japanese with such killers as "WE WANT NOTHING UNTIL VICTORY IS OURS!" and "SAVE RICE AND WIN!" Posters are used to spread these ideas; imitation of their production with appropriate changes is advisable. Once airdrops become practical, the tactic of supplying the population with defacing or transforming stencils should prove very profitable in so poster-ridden an area as Korea. An example of such a transformation is "SAVE RICE from Japan AND WIN."

Newspapers Exiled Korean newspapers can be printed in China and dropped on Korea or smuggled in. It is suggested that one of the suppressed newspapers be revived and midget copies purporting to come from underground Korea be planted. If the radio possibilities are good, a daily "radio review" of exiled Korean press could be transmitted by MO-subsidized radio stations.

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Agents Europeans, as agents in Korea, could operate only under physical cover in isolated areas under extremely hazardous conditions. Native personnel must be recruited, therefore, and given an extensive training period, since they will know nothing about observation.

The Japanese police in Korea wield an authority even greater than in Japan. They are divided into civil and military police which function closely together. According to Japanese sources there were 20,642 members of the civil police in Korea in 1937, of which 12,161 were Japanese and 8,481 were Koreans. In 1938, the total had increased to 21,782, or approximately one policeman to every 1,150 people. In 1941, the total number of police in Korea was estimated at 60,000.

One of the significant functions of the police of Korea is control of "dangerous thoughts." Organizations and meetings are supervised by the police; every meeting must be licensed. In addition to strict censorship, there is detailed surveillance over the movements of foreign visitors and residents. It is hoped that when Allied bombings of the area become more intense, the resulting dislocation will enable agents to accomplish much more than they could at the present moment. The Japanese system of registration is thorough. Information on location, activities and history of any individual is available to the police at any time.

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MO PROGRAM FOR KOREA

Consideration of the Korean population, its customs, present attitudes, and the character of the Japanese occupation, leads to the following suggestions for an integrated plan of morale operations.

The objectives of the plan are:

1. To stimulate resistance and subversive activities by the mass of Korean workers against the Japanese.
2. To encourage and prepare Koreans in the collection of Order of Battle intelligence.
3. To promote Korean goodwill for American troops and occupying authorities.
4. To discourage Korean collaborationists from aiding the Japanese.
5. To increase the fears of the Japanese authorities and troops over the likelihood of a Korean revolt and the approach of an annihilating Allied invasion; and
6. To secure improved treatment for Allied prisoners on the peninsula.

A plan now in process includes the setting up of several mobile black radio stations with MO staffs, operating in various parts of China. It may be ultimately possible to use part of the facilities of one of these transmitters for Korean-beamed broadcasts.

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Since there is a real Korean Revolutionary newspaper, MO will have no trouble in finding a model for its "exiled Korean" paper. The newspaper can be used as a means of conveying both news and guidance to the literate part of the population.

Press and radio material will consist of news, stories, rumors, and instructions in sabotage and the collection of OB intelligence. When U.S. troops do appear, the black radio can be of invaluable aid in encouraging the Koreans to watch and note Japanese troop movements. It can be used similarly to create confusion among Japanese troops as to Allied movements.

One Korean report states that since no information except Japanese propaganda reaches the bulk of the population, there is general depression and apprehension over the apparently unbroken string of Japanese victories and the apparent weakness of the Allies. Active Korean resistance could probably be encouraged greatly by dissemination of more accurate reports.

In addition to its news coverage, radio and newspaper will stress the discrimination, the terror, the hardships, and the immorality of the occupying Japanese (see general propaganda themes).

Collaborationists will be threatened with black lists and other terroristic devices.

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Rumors can be spread through the paper, the radio, and existing OWI facilities. To what extent the Korean underground may be used will have to be ascertained by MO in the field. Inasmuch as the Korean underground will object to certain parts of our propaganda for this we will have to use agents with no underground affiliations. Placing of agents in Korea will be a difficult and expensive proposition; it will probably be necessary for MO to direct its efforts toward assisting SI in the recruiting of Korean agents. The men must then assume certain MO tasks as a secondary responsibility.

POLITICAL ANGLES IMPORTANT TO MO

Korean independence is of course the primary aim. If a temporary mandate is imposed, the Koreans prefer an international commission. If a single country administers the mandate, the U.S. is favored by Koreans. Most Korean resistance groups are doing little but gather intelligence, minor sabotage, and organizing. It might be a desirable MO line to spread under a very black cover the impression that the Allies incline to regard the intensity of organized Korean "active" resistance now as a gage of Korean unity and worthiness of postwar independence. China is generally credited with imperialistic designs on Korea, and has shown no friendliness toward liberal or leftist Korean groups. Russia is favored in the northern industrial and border areas. Russia and China could be quoted as secretly feeling Korea

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should start cutting Jap throats now or get left at the peace table.

Both the Christian and Chondokyo religions are said to have active undergrounds. Other groups vary from the somewhat reactionary Provisional Government (established in Chungking) to the liberal Revolutionary Party which is composed of younger men. The Revolutionary Party is considerably more aggressive than the Provisional Government group, and is stated to be widely supported by the general population.

The underground groups are generally considered to be well organized and hence may be very useful to MO. They may, however, disapprove strongly of certain MO efforts such as causing riots, strikes, hoarding, etc., which would derange the Korean civilian economy almost as much as they would the Japanese war program. Therefore, extremely careful cover may be necessary at times, even with these ostensible allies.

The Korean Revolutionary Military and Political School run by the Communists in Yen-an makes extensive use of Korean prisoners of war; their help in propaganda work to Koreans would probably be extremely useful to MO. (See attached sample of Yen-an propaganda).

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Yenan Report #32

LIVING CONDITIONS IN KOREA

This report is on general living conditions in Korea since the beginning of the Pacific War and was told to me by the cadres of the Korean Revolutionary Military and Political School in Yen-an. Some of the material is suitable for use in our propaganda to Korea. The rationing of food and clothing, the confiscation of metal articles, the system of farm control and forcible collection of farm products are all good material for leaflets, particularly of the demand type.

Specific information cannot be obtained from the Korean School right now, since the students have been engaged in agricultural production from April of this year when they came to Yen-an from forward Eighth Route Army bases, and they are busily making preparation to open the School on or about January 10th of next year.

After the School gets well underway, in a few months I believe we would be able to get some particular or specific information about Korea and Manchuria. This, however, will depend on the battle situation of the Eighth Route Army.

Food Rationing after December, 1941.

Staples: All food is rationed according to the rationing law in Korea. The present rice quota per capita is one half the pre-World War II quota. Persons between the ages of 7 and

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25 receive 2 go 3 shaku a day; those between 25 and 50 receive 2 go 2 shaku a day; those between 1 and 7 and those over 50 receive 1 go 5 shaku.

Meat: The law limits meat rationing to 20 momme per person per month, however, the people are unable to get this amount. This is because the Japanese Army requisitions most of the meat supply.

Vegetables: The government, through the economic policies, allocates a certain portion of the farmer's property on which he is to grow vegetables for home consumption. The property space has theoretically reduced the production for home consumption to one-third that of World War II. Actually the farmers get more for they raise vegetables "illegally" in less conspicuous plots of their properties.

Shoyu, Miso (Bean Paste), and Cooking Oil: Rationed amount of these articles is one third that of pre-war. Farmers can make their own but since materials necessary, such as salt, are rationed, home production does not improve the situation.

Clothing: Clothes rationing is on point system with 100 points allotted to a person a year. An overcoat takes 70 points.

Black Market: The Economic Police Force was instituted about 1941 to control black market dealings and bootlegging of farm products which are forcibly collected by the

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government at set prices. Black market transactions are very popular since rationing is far from adequate.

Conscription of farm products: Agricultural lands are classified into 17 types according to fertility and productive capacity. During the spring the Economic Police supervise the planting of various products and allocate sections of farms for rice, millet, cotton, etc. During the Fall, the Economic Police make estimates of the produce and the farmers are required to turn in to the government the stipulated amount. This is the requirement and the farmers must turn in to the government surplus produce harvested over and above the estimate.

The farmers receive a portion of their produce for consumption and a small amount of money in cash payment for a part of the produce. The balance of the money is deposited in the bank for the farmers by the Japanese Government.

Confiscation of metal: After 1941, the Japanese Government passed a regulation to confiscate all metal cutleries, kitchen utensils and dinner-ware in Korea. It is an old-age custom among Koreans to use silver and brass for dinner-ware and cutlery and when the Japanese confiscated all metal, they were considerably put out. The Koreans now use pottery and other substitutes.

Taxation: Land tax is five to six times higher than pre-war days. Food and luxury taxes are exorbitant. For a ten dollar check at a restaurant, a diner pays thirty dollars

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tax. A person pays about a hundred dollars for having a picture taken and an equal amount for tax.

Life insurance system: Young and old alike are forced to take out life insurance in Korea. The police, employers and government officials all act in concert to force insurance on the people in order to raise money for the war effort.

Labor mobilization: For three to four days a week, the Korean people are mobilized to make comfort kits, straw sacks for shipping rice to Japan and occupied areas, build roads and temples, and to practice air raid precaution. Most of these services must be given gratis.

Army volunteers: The official Korean government report stated that 250,000 Koreans volunteered for the army from 1938 through December, 1943. Japanese report gives less than 50,000 Korean volunteers for the same period. The Korean cadres at the school stated that the Japanese figure is more accurate.

Yenan, China  
December 27, 1944.

T/Sgt. Koji Ariyoshi

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