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STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT

formerly

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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E.I.D. *XL* 20581

INTELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION NUMBER A-61983

COUNTRY	Siam	ORIGINAL RPT.	ZM 192	<b>20581</b>
SUBJECT	Korean Organization	DATE OF INFO.	6 September 1945	
		DATE OF RPT.	7 September 1945	
		DISTRIBUTED	15 October 1945	
ORIGIN	Bangkok	CONFIRMATION		
TREASURE	IB	SUPPLEMENT		
SOURCE	Z - X-2	NO. OF PAGES	<i>2</i>	
SUB SOURCE	as stated	ATTACHMENTS		
EVALUATION	F-3			

1. Informant is Harry Moon Sil Jim (Japanese name OKAMOTO) who claims to be Korean by birth, and to have gone to Honolulu in 1925, where he was educated at Iolani School. He returned to Korea in 1933. He is the elected president of the Korean National Association described below.
2. When Japan declared war she mobilized Koreans and utilized some as guards of prisoners of war. Korean guards were not in the Army, but attached as civilian employees. Their pay was Siamese baht 120 per month, of which only Baht 20 was received by them, the balance being withheld by the Japanese. During the latter part of August 1945 Korean guards were dismissed by the Japanese, and are now endeavoring to gain favor with the Allies and have formed the "Korean National Association," which is intended to cooperate with the Allies. This Association hopes to become the National Korean Army, which the leaders say, wishes to ally itself with the other Allied armies.
3. A thousand or more guards were sent to Siam, and located in the prisoner of war camps scattered along the line of the Burma-Siam Railway. The guards were considered as inferior to the lowest Japanese soldier, and were severely handled by the Japanese and frequently beaten. Living condition were difficult and the guards were very unhappy, some thirty escaped during the last six months of the war.
4. All guards did not receive the same pay, as a particularly satisfactory guard's pay was raised. Of the Baht 120 average pay, 80 was withheld and sent to the man's family in Korea and 20 deposited in the Japanese Field Army Post Office. At the time of discharge the guards were given Baht 200 and on 4 September Baht 150 of the money deposited in the Field Post Office was given each man.
5. As they were stranded with little money and no transportation back to Korea they endeavored to gain Allied favor, in order to obtain food and transport, and so organized the Korean National Association. Two Korean representatives from each camp were sent to Bangkok, where on 4 September they elected officers and formally organized the Association. The list of elected officials follows:

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Authority: NND 730013

By *col/...* NARS, Date *10/12/79*

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|----|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 6. | President                     | Harry Moon Jim |
|    | Vice President                | Ikhyim Lee     |
|    | Department of Interior        | Chongmyung Lee |
|    | Department of Foreign Affairs | Yongchin Kim   |
|    | Department of Finance         | Yongkee Paik   |
|    | Department of Communications  | Yongkap Lee    |
|    | Department of Declarations    | Youngchan Kho  |
|    | Department of Welfare         | Pumsung Whong  |
|    | Department of Superintendance | Zeikee Park    |
|    | Department of Education       | Chongtai Kim   |
7. Each camp contributed a sum of money to finance the Association; and each was to organize itself and be under a Commander and Assistant Commander. It is hoped by the Association that they could shortly transform themselves into a National Korean Army.
8. The Koreans upcountry were concentrated by the Siamese Police in ~~an~~ ~~uncertain~~ areas, while at date of report those in Bangkok were still dispersed about the city, although plans had been made to concentrate the one hundred and fifty Korean Guards in the city in a single place.
9. Many of the Koreans are guilty of serious war crimes, and on the whole they mistreated and unnecessarily tormented the prisoners of war.
10. At the date of report the Koreans in Siam numbered as follows:
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| ex-prisoner of war guards, 150 in Bangkok    | 900          |
| soldiers in the regular Japanese Army        | 5,000        |
| prostitutes with the Japanese troops in Siam | 1,500        |
|  | <u>7,400</u> |

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