

**March 11, 1955**  
**Letter, Lieutenant General C. B. Ferenbaugh to  
President Rhee**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

The United States has created a policy to aid the Republic of Korea by 1) strengthening the military establishment and, 2) helping stabilize her economy. Military aid would take the form of 720 thousand troops distributed amongst the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force.

**Credits:**

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**S E C R E T**

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HEADQUARTERS  
JOINT MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP, KOREA (PROVISIONAL)  
AFO 301

11 March 1955

THRU: Admiral Sohr. Won Il  
Minister of National Defense  
Republic of Korea  
Seoul, Korea

TO: The President  
Republic of Korea  
Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. President:

The Minute of Understanding of 17 November 1954 indicates that the United States Government is committed to a policy of a strengthened Republic of Korea military establishment. At the same time there must be a realistic effort in the balancing of the Republic of Korea budget. In essence, then, there must not be excess overhead performing the same mission.

Further, the Minute indicates that aid and assistance to Republic of Korea military forces was contemplated for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force as specific forces with a Ministry of National Defense as a coordinating head. There may be such minor shifts of number of personnel between the four services as may be mutually agreed upon, and provided that the grand total of 720 thousand members is not exceeded. Consequently, in consideration of the mission of the Ministry of National Defense, as well as the disparity in size of the four components of the armed forces, support was not and is not contemplated for such auxiliary agencies of the Republic of Korea Government as the Militia Bureau and the Joint Provost Marshal General Office. Accordingly, the United States Government cannot support the above agencies.

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The President

11 March 1955

There is no objection to the Joint Chiefs of Staff being given logistic support and assistance in staffing by the Republic of Korea military service from within their own resources as approved by the Minister of Defense.

Respectfully yours,

C. B. FERENBAUGH  
Lt. General, USA  
Deputy Army Commander

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