

May 19, 1954

**Letter, Director Karl Hongkee to General Maxwell D.
Taylor**

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Summary:

Director Karl Hongkee seeks General Taylor's help for the distribution of the Korean newspaper, the Korean Republic, amongst the American personnel. He articulates that this newspaper reflects the government's official policy and is a medium of government announcements which not only allows Americans to identify Korean views, but also helps Koreans access worldwide news.

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May 19, 1954

General Maxwell D. Taylor
Headquarters Eighth United States Army
Office of the Commanding General

My dear General Taylor:

I am writing to you in the hope that you can use your influence to solve a problem that is creating some misunderstandings.

As you probably know, the Korean Information Service, Inc., has been publishing since last August 15 a newspaper in English called the Korean Republic. While not an organ of the Government, this newspaper reflects official policy and is a medium of record for important Government pronouncements.

At present the paper, usually four pages, is published every day except Sunday. When new equipment arrives, it will be expanded in size and will be published seven days a week.

We believe that it is extremely important that the paper be made available to as many Americans as it is possible to reach. From its columns, officers, men, and civilians can get an idea of the trends of Korean thinking, and at the same time will have access to the news of the world that bears on international relations in the Far East.

Some of the military authorities in Korea have taken it upon themselves to try to keep the paper away from personnel. It has been barred from the Seoul City Post Exchange for several months, for example, and all our intercessions have been in vain. The paper formerly was distributed free from a stand inside the PX, and I would appreciate a resumption of that practice.

We have also asked, without success, for some assistance in getting the paper to various military and civilian installations throughout Korea. We wish that we could do this ourselves, but as you well know, under existing circumstances we lack the distribution facilities.



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General Maxwell D. Taylor

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Certainly we do not ask you to set up any special distribution, nor to do anything that would increase the cost of maintaining American forces in Korea. But we hope that you can find some way of utilizing existing facilities (those for distributing Stars and Stripes, for instance) to get the Korean Republic to more readers and thereby to improve still further the fine relations between our two countries.

We know already that the paper is wanted. Many military installations in the Seoul area pick up copies at the Korean Information Service, Inc., when they can.

Anything that you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. I should very much like to know what can be done, so that the Korean Information Service, Inc., can cooperate fully.

With expressions of thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Hongkee Karl
Director