

1951**Memorandum, Eighth United States Army Korea,
'Local Procurement of Foodstuffs by Republic of
Korea'****Citation:**

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Summary:

Lieutenant General John B. Coulter reports the required rations supplement for the Republic of Korea Army.

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**HEADQUARTERS
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA (MUSAK)
Office of the Commanding General
APO 301**

MEMORANDUM:

SUBJECT: Local Procurement of Foodstuffs by Republic of Korea

1. During March and April 1951 the following ration supplement was required for the Republic of Korea Army:

Dried Beans	900,000 lbs
Fish	2,800,000 lbs
Fresh Vegetables	5,625,000 lbs

It was requested by ROKA that these items be procured in Japan from U. S. funds. Subsequent procurement action was taken. This requirement was placed on 6 March and met with immediate difficulty in that no lead time was provided, an essential in procurement of this quantity, with distances involved.

2. While U. S. procurement was being undertaken in Japan for these critically needed items, two circumstances were called to our attention. First, on 30 March a six (6) day supply of supplemental rations for 12,550 men was purchased on the open market in Korea from funds available to the 1st ROK Division. Price of these items, which paralleled our procurement, was only 50% of the monetary entitlement (200 won per man per day) of the troops for that period. (See Tab A). The second incident arose on 4 April when a radio was received in which Mr. Liu Yung Ho (Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry, ROK) advised that adequate quantities of fish were available in Korea. (See Tab B).

3. The central procurement agency system for procuring supplemental ration items for ROKA was agreed to by the Defense Minister at a meeting with Ambassador Muccio and representatives of this headquarters on 29 March. This plan cannot be implemented unless and until the funds are made available. The agreement of the Defense Minister was that the 200 won per man per day now provided to ROK Divisions would be withdrawn, in view of the non-availability of food items in forward areas, and placed in the hands of the QMG ROKA for central procurement. This has not yet been done.

4. From the foregoing it is apparent that resources and methods available to the ROK are not being exploited to the advantage of the country or its army. This is detrimental to the U. S. government by placing an unwarranted financial and procurement burden upon U. S. forces.

5. It is urgently requested that the agreement on March 29, 1951, be implemented for the benefit of the ROK Army.