

**April 13, 1954**

**Letter, General Maxwell D. Taylor to Baek Du-jin,  
the Prime minister of ROK**

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**Summary:**

General Maxwell D. Taylor responds to the Prime Minister's concerns about continued UN occupation of property needed by the civilian populace of Seoul.

**Credits:**

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13 April 1954

The Honorable Paik, Too Chin  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Korea

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In response to your letter of 28 March 1954. I wish to assure you that I am deeply conscious of the hardships and sacrifices imposed on the Korean people by the war. The added burden of United Nations occupancy of property needed by the civilian populace in Seoul has long been of grave concern to me. I have continually stressed the matter of consolidating military activities and releasing critical properties whenever military requirements permit. Our progress in this connection has not been inconsiderable. In the past year, 212 properties have been returned to your government of which 26 were schools.

In real estate matters, the Eighth Army is the executive agent for the United Nations Command in the Seoul Area. When a property is vacated by a unit, the whole field of UNC needs must be surveyed before the property can be declared excess and given up. If the United Nations Command determines that no further need exists, this headquarters returns the property to your Government. Where there is a continuing need of the property for a UNC activity, a transfer of occupancy is effected without a final evacuation being made.

With regard to the real estate property records which you request, you will find that they are maintained by the Seoul Real Estate Office of HOKA G-5. I understand that it is also possible to obtain this information from the Fifth bureau of your Ministry of National Defense.

With regard to the survey of property now occupied by UN Forces, I have recently had my Staff complete such a study which is now being analyzed. I can assure you that I am placing great emphasis upon the contraction of our military establishments with a view to evacuating as much Korean property as possible. The record in the past will verify the sincerity of our efforts and I hope that the program can be continued. However, it is likely to move more slowly as we approach the indispensable minimum requirement for housing which will remain as long as the UN Forces are in Korea.

Sincerely yours,

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
General, U. S. Army  
Commanding