

CONFIDENTIAL Security Information

INTERROGATION REPORT NO KG 1122 (Cont'd)

CH'OE has not made a public speech since Dec 50. In spite of this enforced silence, CH'OE, in PW's opinion, has the greatest prestige and popularity of any public figure in N KOREA, his greatest strength being among the peasantry and the NKA. On the other hand, KIM, Il Song has become the cause behind and the symbol of the suffering caused by the war to the people.

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Name: MU, Chong (武序) (平姓), alias KIM, Mu Jong (金武序)
(IN: MU's real name is KIM, Mu Jong but he is better known by the alternate name)

Nationality: Korean; also has Chinese citizenship

Rank: Ex Lt Gen, NKA

Position: Ex CG, II Corps, NKA; Ex-Vice Minister of National Defense for Arty

Age: 55 Height: 1.68 m Weight: 75 kg Build: Heavy

Complexion: Medium Characteristics: Small moustache; square face; heavy facial hair; wears glasses occasionally, stern facial expression.

Marital Status: Married

Last Seen: (Location) GHQ area near P'YONGYANG Date: Apr 51

Observation:

PW first talked to MU in Nov 50 when they were both passengers on a vehicle heading toward T'UNGHUA (通化), LIAOTUNG Prov, MANCHURIA. PW later met MU several times at GHQ, NKA near P'YONGYANG. Bulk of information here is derived from common knowledge and hearsay.

Education and Foreign Languages:

MU described himself to PW as a self-educated man. His formal education was apparently very limited but his capacity for study was amazing. He had taught himself mathematics, several sciences, foreign languages, economics, etc. He was fluent in Korean and Chinese. He had begun to study Russian in 1946 and already spoke it well.

Family:

MU's first wife was Chinese, a bureau chief in the CC Northeast (MANCHURIA) District Govt. He married again in late 1945, this time taking a Korean wife, an action for which he was formally censured by the Korean CP in 1946. The exact circumstances in this case were not known to PW but the reprimand was apparently deliberate and designed to humiliate MU.

Background:

MU was a CCF veteran and his association with them has been a long and close one. He was with MAO, Tse Tung on the Long March and was the only one of 30 Koreans who set out on the march and survived it. He was commander of the Korean Volunteer Army (朝鮮人義勇軍) around 1940. He was also at one time commander of a CCF Arty Brig and was rated the best artilleryman in the CCF.

In late Aug or early Sep 45, the Chinese Communists sent MU into N KOREA as their choice to assume leadership of the country. Of the Koreans in the CCF, MU had the highest position and prestige. He made a speaking tour of N KOREA, drawing vast audiences and getting a tremendous popular response. In a free election he would have won easily. In his speeches,

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MU stressed two main principles, a cooperative economy and economic and political independence in place of colonialism. He also strongly implied that a N Korean regime should cooperate with the Chinese Communists. He omitted any references to the USSR or to union with S KOREA.

However, neither MU nor the N Korean people could nullify the fact that Soviet occupation meant Soviet hegemony. KIM, Il Song froze MU out of any high post in the new regime, whereupon the Chinese Communists asked MU to return to CHINA, but he refused and remained in N KOREA.

Meanwhile, MU had entered the Korean CP in Sep 45. He was later one of the organizers of the NKLP. In Dec 46, he became Deputy Chief for Arty in the Officers Training Bn, NK Security Forces. With the establishment of the NKA in Feb 48, he became C/Arty and in Sep 48, when the Ministry of National Defense was organized, he became Vice-Minister of National Defense for Arty and C/Arty Bureau.

He got nowhere in politics. Due to KIM, Il Song's opposition, he could not even run in the Aug 48 elections for the NKG Supreme Peoples Council. In Oct 48, he was finally elected to a seat on the Provincial Peoples Council of P'YONGAN NAMDO, a sad comedown for the man who had expected to be chief of state.

MU's appointment to military positions had been due in great part to the influence of CH'OE, Yong Gön (崔庸健), the Minister of National Defense, his comrade in the CCF. CH'OE was also said to have persuaded MU to stay in KOREA.

In Jul 50, he was given command of NKA II Corps on the central front, meanwhile retaining his position as Vice-Minister. MU disregarded orders from GHQ and fought as he saw fit. II Corps did badly, handicapped as it was by rugged terrain, inadequate forces and poor communications and supplies. In Sep 50, MU was relieved of his command and in Oct 50, he was appointed head of the P'YONGYANG Defense Command. This was a job in a tactically hopeless situation, with a poor defensive position, weak forces and a powerful enemy. In Nov 50, MU was dismissed from the NKA and stripped of his rank and his post as Vice-Minister.

During the trip by car to T'UNGHUA, MANCHURIA, mentioned earlier, MU complained bitterly that KIM, Il Song had picked him for the worst tasks, where failure was likely or inevitable. This belief was shared by most of the pro-Chinese officers in the NKA. Nevertheless, even CH'OE Yong Gön criticized MU for failure to follow orders in speeches to NKA officers in MANCHURIA in Dec 50.

In a speech to the Seventh General Conference of the NKLP in Dec 50, KIM, Il Song castigated MU, declaring that his failure to obey orders had resulted in destruction of II Corps and that he had failed to withdraw his remaining forces properly. MU was expelled from the NKLP at this meeting. There was no open defense of MU by the Chinese faction, although there was much muttering and grumbling in the aisles and lobbies.

Since Jan 51, MU, in mufti, has been in the GHQ area, to which he has been restricted. He was not under arrest nor was it likely he would be arrested or tried.

Character and Reputation:

Despite his lack of formal education, MU was intelligent, able and well-informed. In appearance and manner, he was dignified, reserved, severe and a little remote. His chief weakness was his habit of being too

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frank and outspoken. His temper was fierce, hot and coarse - he cursed freely when angry - and although he bridled it with equal fierceness, it sometimes got the better of him.

Despite this, MU was not only respected but revered by his followers. There was a deep abiding core of humanity in the man which showed itself in his acts and in his consideration and treatment of his men, rather than in his words or manner. He still has powerful support among the ex-CCF Koreans in the NKA (including Div and Corps commanders), among NKA Arty troops and among the growing Chinese faction in the NKLP. Moreover, he had the friendship or partisanship of high figures in the CCF and CCG. The pressure from these groups is believed to have prevented MU's complete banishment. By May 51 there was already talk that MU might be reappointed to some high military post.

Meanwhile, MU's name had disappeared from all public information media. There had been no mention of him since Oct 50 and many people believed him dead.

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Name: LEE, Sang Jo (李尚朝) (이상조)

Nationality: Korean; also holds Soviet citizenship

Rank: Maj Gen, NKA

Position: Deputy C/GS, GHQ, NKA

Age: 37 Height: 1.63 m Weight: 63 kg Build: Medium, Athletic

Complexion: Dark Characteristics: Thin eyes; hollow cheeks; shifty expression, especially when talking; flat nose.

Marital Status: Married

Last Seen: (Location) GHQ area near P'YONGYANG Date: May 51

Observation:

PW first talked to LEE on several occasions during Dec 50 when the latter was C/S, Auxiliary Command Hq, NKA at T'UNGHUA (通化), MANCHURIA and since Jan 51 has met LEE on numerous occasions at GHQ.

Education and Foreign Languages:

LEE spoke flawless Korean but was weak on technical terms. He could read and write the Korean syllabary but did not know Chinese characters. His Russian was fluent and he was said to know some Chinese. Nothing is known about his formal education but he appeared to be fairly well-educated. His outlook, however, was narrow and essentially military.

Family:

No information.

Background:

Very little is known of LEE's pre-NKA career. Some GHQ officers claimed LEE was with a Korean guerilla force in MANCHURIA and went to the USSR in the late 1930's. He was said to be an old acquaintance of KIM, Il Song. LEE served in the Red Army, seeing considerable combat service in World War II and eventually rose to field grade. He did not come to N KOREA until Jul 50 and was thus unknown to most of the NKA.

LEE became C/S of Auxiliary Command Hq around Oct or Nov 50 and Deputy C/GS, GHQ, NKA in Dec 50.