Anti-Communist Sentiment Reported in Wonsan Area

In early March the North Korean inhabitants of the Wonsan area had become very skeptical of the Communist regime's intentions and felt that North Korea would be abandoned if the international scene required it. This feeling is allegedly reflected in the failure of officials in small towns to take action against known UN sympathizers. Reportedly desertions among North Korean troops are common, with the deserters often joining anti-Communist guerrilla groups in the mountains. Inhabitants of the Wonsan region have no love for their Chinese "liberators" and anger at the Chinese is generated by requisitioning for food and clothing.

COMMENT: No indication is given of the number of inhabitants throughout North Korea holding these views thus preventing any assessment of the scope of such anti-Communist feelings in North Korea. There is, however, considerable evidence to support many of the contentions made by these "Wonsan Inhabitants." It is known, for instance, that a considerable anti-Communist group exists in the hills in the Wonsan area and that the North Korean regime has had considerable difficulty in reapplying the rigid controls exercised prior to the UN Occupation.

Additional Information on Communist Intentions in Western Korea

The enemy is building leg rafts along the coastal area north of Kangwah Island (northwest of Seoul) for a possible landing on the Kimpo Peninsula.

COMMENT: This information must be considered in the light of the Chinese POW taken on the tip of Kimpo peninsula in mid-May, who alleged that his unit will make an amphibious
landing on the Kimpo Peninsula. No report of unusual activity has been reported to date by UN aerial reconnaissance in this area.

RGK Assembly Seeks to Restrict Rhee's Authority. According to a 21 May press account from Korea, leaders of four opposition groups within the RGK have revived an attempt to enact the Governmental Reorganization Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment, designed to make the Prime Minister responsible to the Legislature rather than to the Executive, has been a great point of dissension in the ROK and has already suffered one defeat prior to the beginning of the Korean war.

COMMENT: Although President Rhee has a working plurality in the ROK Assembly, an opposition coalition, such as elected Vice President Kim Sung-su, would have a greatly improved chance of getting this constitutional amendment enacted.