

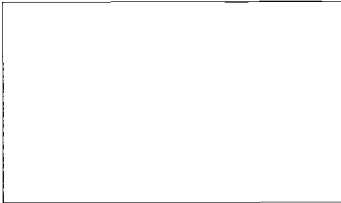
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15 Feb 51
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KOREA

Republic of Korea

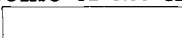
2. ~~ROK~~ fears for the future:

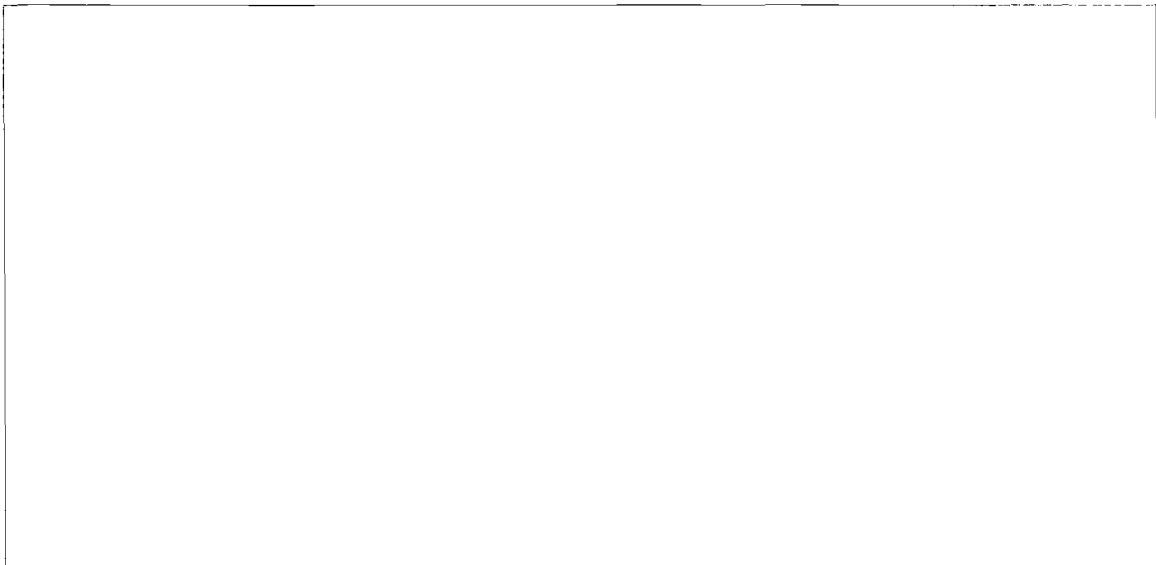


Republic of Korea

Recent actions and statements by ~~ROK~~ officials reflect fear on the part of South Korean leaders that the particular interests of the Republic of Korea may be overlooked or even sacrificed for the sake of larger Western objectives. President Rhee has declared his firm intention to continue

fighting even if the UN should order a cease-fire and his desire to obtain arms for "every Korean man, woman and child." The Chief of Staff of the ROK Army has advocated that, "because the Chinese have been branded as aggressors," UN forces should advance across the Yalu and capture Peiping and Nanking. Meanwhile, the ROK Government is continuing to exert every effort to obtain arms, even at the cost of expending a portion of its dwindling foreign exchange account.

Comment: While some of the irresponsibility in such statements reflects President Rhee's  character, the mounting international seriousness of the Korean conflict has created a genuine fear among ROK officials that the West may overlook the ROK's paramount interest in any settlement of the conflict.



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