

*Korea*

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S E C R E T

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

March 29, 1957

Subject: State-Defense Meeting on ROK Armaments

A meeting was held at 2:00 p.m. March 28, 1957, in the office of the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of examining the evidence bearing upon the build-up of military strength in North Korea in contravention of the Armistice Agreement. Present for Defense: Secretary Wilson, Deputy Secretary Robertson, Admiral Radford, General Counsel Becker, and several others; for State: Secretary Dulles, Mr. Phleger, Mr. Bowie, and Mr. Armstrong.

*295-00*

The presentation opened with a review of the policy disagreement between State and Defense over the question of delivering weapons to the ROK so as to modernize the forces in South Korea and narrow the widening gap between military capabilities in the North and South. The presentation was made by Captain W. C. Mott, USN. Captain Mott then took up photographic evidence purporting to show the condition of North Korean airfields at or shortly before July 27, 1953, when the Armistice Agreement went into effect. Comparison photography of a few months to several years later was then presented to indicate the rapidity and completeness of the repair or rebuilding of the North Korean airfields and evidence of the introduction of aircraft upon these airfields in varying numbers at different times. Some of the photography was stated to be useable in public, but the majority was indicated as not releaseable and some was described as of great sensitivity. The photographic slides were explained by a photographic interpreter.

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Captain Mott then turned to evidence derived from radar indicating the presence of aircraft over North Korea, beginning shortly after the Armistice Agreement was effective and after UN aircraft were no longer flying above the cease-fire line. This evidence was described as illustrative and related specifically only to one week in 1954. At this point the Captain used a chart showing the estimated present strength of the NCAF totalling 625 aircraft [the data on the chart is attached]. He pointed out that there had been a number of "incriminating" admissions by various North Korean officials and military officers which could be used as evidence in any proceeding that might be determined upon.

A chart was next presented, comparing the manpower of the North Korean and Chinese Communist armies in North Korea in 1953 and 1957. This was accompanied by a comparison of selected heavy weapons (artillery and tanks) for the same years [the data from that chart is attached]. In discussing the validity of the intelligence on which these latter data were based, Captain Mott said that only a relatively small part of the intelligence could be declassified for public use, such as that obtained from deserters and defectors, but that the greater part of it was based on classified material, some of the highest classification.

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Copy 1 of 8; Series "A"

*R. W. Park Armstrong, Jr. & mem*

S E C R E T

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Upon conclusion of the presentation by Captain Mott, a general discussion ensued concerning the various courses of action open to the United States, their implications in terms of domestic and foreign policy and the nature and validity of the evidence. The discussion was inconclusive, and it was left that the matter would be taken up by the National Security Council at its next meeting.

Charts Attached as stated

*RA*  
R:WParkArmstrong, Jr. :mvm  
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Copy to: S/P - Mr. Bowie  
L, Mr. Phleger  
FE, Mr. Sebald  
S/S, Mr. Howe

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S E C R E T

ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF THE NORTH KOREAN AIR FORCE

Jet fighters	310
Jet ground attack (Fagots)	70
Jet light bombers (Beagles)	75
Piston ground attack	80
Piston light bombers	45
Transports	15
Miscellaneous	30

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TABLE I

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S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

COMMUNIST FORCES IN NORTH KOREA

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1957</u>
North Korean	281,000 (18 inf. divs)	350,000 (18 inf. divs) + 69
CCA	872,000 (57 inf. divs)	291,000 (15 inf. divs) - 581

COMPARISON OF COMMUNIST ARTILLERY & ARMOR IN NORTH KOREA

<u>Type</u>	<u>1953</u>			<u>1957</u>			<u>Difference</u>
	<u>CCA</u>	<u>NKA</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CCA</u>	<u>NKA</u>	<u>Total</u>	
122mm How or larger	286	252	538	367	774	1,141	603+
120mm Mort	602	564	1,166	153	1,026	1,179	13+
Tanks	122	281	403	354	300	654	251+

TABLE II

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