

August 15, 1955

**Letter, General J.H.Collier to Dr. Chai Yu Choi,
Minister of Health and Social Affairs in ROK**

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Summary:

J.H.Collier, Deputy commanding General writes regarding laborer minimum daily wages for the Korean Service Corps. Previously, Dr. Choi suggested a minimum daily wage of 600 hwan. However, General J.H.Collier answers that they can pay only 520 hwan including logistical support.

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15 August 1955

Dr. Chai Yu Choi
Minister of Health and Social Affairs
Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Dear Dr. Choi:

Your letter of 12 August 1955 in which you propose that the UNC pay the KSC laborer a minimum daily wage of 600 Hwan, including logistical support, is acknowledged. Although I am aware of the difficult problems which confront the ROK Government regarding the procurement of laborers for the KSC at adequate wages, it must be pointed out that the UNC is presently employing Direct Hire laborers for less than 600 Hwan a day. The current UNC wage rate for the KN-3 Direct Hire heavy laborer in metropolitan areas is 520 Hwan a day - our maximum rate for unskilled labor. Another consideration of primary importance in this matter is the amount of money available for pay and logistical support of the KSC. Fund limitations make it impossible for the UNC to accept your proposed wage of 600 Hwan and, at the same time, maintain a KSC force of the size considered essential to meet our needs.

Based on the limited amount of money available and our minimum requirement for a KSC force of approximately 6700, the UNC can pay the KSC laborer a maximum daily wage of 520 Hwan including logistical support. I feel that this offer is both realistic and just. If the ROK Government feels that this is inadequate, I recommend that your government make funds available to pay KSC laborers the difference between 520 Hwan and 600 Hwan.

Both President Rhee and General White desire to have this matter settled as soon as possible. I therefore urge you to give this problem your immediate attention and inform my representatives at the earliest possible date whether or not the ROK Government will accept our wage offer of 520 Hwan.

Sincerely,

J. H. COLLIER
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding General

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