

**February 20, 1951**  
**Letter, Lieutenant General John B. Coulter to Shin  
Sung Mo**

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**Summary:**

Lieutenant General John B. Coulter confirms an agreement with the ROK Ministry of National Defense to organize eight civilian Pioneer Labor Battalions to assist with United Nations military construction projects.

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HEADQUARTERS  
EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA (EUSAK)  
Office of the Commanding General  
APO 301

20 February 1951

Dear Minister SIHN:

This letter confirms and makes of record matters discussed between The Honorable Mr. SIHN, Sung Mo, Minister of National Defense, Republic of Korea and Colonel W. A. Collier, Deputy Chief of Staff, EUSAK, at Taegu, 19 February 1951 concerning availability of organized labor for certain defensive works.

The United Nations military engineer effort available for the construction of such lines of defense around Pusan is extremely limited. The civilian manpower resources of the Republic of Korea could be very profitably utilized on this project and would be of great assistance thereto.

Therefore, it is requested that eight (8) civilian Pioneer Labor Battalion be organized and placed under the direction of the General Officer designated to supervise this task. This personnel would be employed in the general area just north of Pusan and in areas designated below.

The desired organization and equipping of units is as follows:

(a) Each Pioneer Labor battalion should be organized into four (4) companies of two hundred and fifty (250) men each for a total battalion strength of one thousand (1000). The total for the eight (8) labor battalions would thus be eight thousand (8000) men.

(b) Each labor battalion should have a minimum of thirteen (13) administrative leaders to control and supervise the personnel. One (1) man should be in overall charge of each battalion and the other twelve should be divided between the companies.

(c) Each individual must be equipped with his bedding and messing equipment such as bowls of rice, etc. to enable him to live in the vicinity of work site.



(d) Each battalion should have adequate Korean cooking equipment for preparing food and for feeding personnel in the field.

Location at which these labor battalions should be made available by 1 March 1951, are as follows:

1. Chinahadong	-	312-152
2. Taeandong	-	256-185
3. Pyongyang	-	175-199
4. Pukkok	-	850-130
5. Pongnimmi	-	866-085
6. Chinngong	-	755-060
7. Sangnammi	-	713-995
8. Chonggong-NI	-	680-960

Your assistance in furnishing and equipping these pioneer labor battalion will be greatly appreciated and the ensuing enhancement to the war effort will be a very valuable contribution thereto.

Assuring you of my continued high esteem.

Cordially and sincerely

JOHN B. COULTER  
Lt. General. USA  
Deputy Army Commander

The Honorable SIHN, Sung Mo  
Minister of National Defense  
Republic Of Korea