

**April 16, 1954**

**Letter, General Maxwell D. Taylor to Syngman Rhee**

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**Summary:**

General Maxwell D. Taylor reports on repair work to the Han River Hi-level Bridge.

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The Syngman Rhee Institute

## HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY

Office of the Commanding General

APO 301 c/o PM, San Francisco, California

16 April 1954

His Excellency Mr. Syngman Rhee  
President of the Republic of Korea  
Kyung Mu Dai

Dear Mr. President:

I should like to report to you the engineering activities which are beginning on the Han River Hi-Level Highway Bridge. The surface of this bridge has deteriorated badly under continuing heavy traffic, and it has become necessary to establish a 5 mile per hour speed limit across the bridge until proper repairs can be made.

It is our intention, not later than 1 May, to close the main structure to traffic in order to remove all timber from the deck of the bridge, strengthen the supporting steel work of the temporary spans and replace the timber deck with new material. To handle vehicular traffic during this period, two floating bridges will be installed across the river between the highway bridge and the railroad bridge. These floating bridges, together with the Shoofly bridge which routes traffic through K-16, will adequately handle all traffic, both military and civilian. The highway bridge will be closed for the greater part of the month of May while the engineers work day and night on the repairs. The pedestrian walkway will not be closed to traffic.

While these repairs will be a temporary inconvenience, they will assure the safety of the bridge and extend its useful life.

Sincerely yours,

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
General, U. S. Army  
Commanding