

**January 29, 1954**  
**Letter, Minister of National Defense Won-Yil Sohn to  
General Maxwell D. Taylor**

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**Summary:**

Won-Yil Sohn, the Minister of National Defense, asks General D. Taylor to provide a list of foodstuff and clothing items to be purchased for ROK military forces.

**Credits:**

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C O P Y

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

29 January 1954  
Seoul

Dear General Taylor:

It is our understanding that the \$81 million funded by Deptar for material assistance to ROK military forces during FY 54 is being earmarked for the planning supply of foodstuff and clothing items plus construction materials for ROK military hospitals, sanatoriums and academy buildings, etc.

We would like to request you to furnish us with the detailed lists of purchases under the plan for foodstuff and clothing items with estimated costs. The purpose is doublefold: 1) to build up our records of military aid items that we are receiving from Deptar and 2) to investigate into the possibilities of fostering the Korean domestic industry by introducing in the near future such items as may be manufactured or processed in Korea.

Means are being developed for local manufacturers to be permitted to receive payments in dollars directly or indirectly through the Bank of Korea for their products or labor supplied to U.S. side.

A manufacturer may adjust price of their product or labor to arrive at a competitive level in terms of dollars, and he may still enjoy reasonable profit by wisely using dollars so earned for imports.

This method, when employed, will enable Korean people to meet your orders at reasonable prices, and will encourage Korean industry to revive and be active. We are sure that you will have as much concern and sympathy as we do to see to it that Korean industry should rehabilitate itself and grow.

Yours sincerely,

Won-Yil Sohn  
Minister of National Defense  
Republic of Korea

General Maxwell D. Taylor  
Commanding  
Eighth United States Army