

January 9, 1954
**Letter, Prime Minister Baek Du-jin to General
Maxwell D.Taylor**

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Summary:

Paik Too Chin [Baek Du-jin] complains that C. Tyler Wood, the United Nations Economic Coordinator for Korea, plans to continue to occupy the Chosun hotel despite promises it would be returned to the Korean Ministry of Transportation.

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OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
REPUBLIC OF KOREASeoul, Korea
9 January 1954

Dear General Taylor,

I have before me two letters from your Headquarters. The first, signed by your Chief of Staff and dated 26 August 1953, is addressed to the Minister of Transportation and assures him that "every effort is being made to release the Chosun Hotel at an early date". The second is your own letter of 2 January 1954 in which you informed me that "Mr. Wood ... has developed a plan ...to use the Normal College of Seoul University and the Chosun Hotel, both of which must be retained for an indefinite period".

It is impossible to reconcile the statements in these two letters. What, however, perturbs me more is the fact that without prior consultation with myself or any member of my Government, Mr. Wood and yourself have decided to retain a building urgently needed by the Republic of Korea, especially as Mr. Wood and I had agreed together that he would take over accommodation which we were willing to provide, namely the Plaza Hotel. The success of our economic rehabilitation ~~program~~ and reconstruction program depends, as I am sure you will agree, on the closest possible consultation and coordination between the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Command. I therefore regret that an incident of this nature should have occurred.

I trust you will be good enough to reexamine the position in consultation with senior members of the Economic Coordinator's staff (pending Mr. Wood's return) and do your utmost to make alternative arrangements so that the Chosun Hotel can be handed over to the Ministry of Transportation at the earliest possible date,

With highest esteem,

Yours Sincerely,

Paik, Too Chin