

January 4, 1954

Letter, General Maxwell D.Taylor to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

General Maxwell D. Taylor informs Rhee he will arrange for Korean MPs to observe verification of prisoner of war rosters.

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GENERAL TAYLOR'S LETTER OF JANUARY 4 TO PRESIDENT RHEE

Dear Mr. President:

As a result of your expression of concern on 1 January over the verification of PW rosters by CFI, I visited Munsan-Ni and went over the situation with our principal official contacts. My overall impression is unchanged that the operation conducted by the Indians on December 31 is advantageous from our point of view in that it prepares the PW for ready transfer to our custody and eliminates undesirable Communists.

In order to meet your desires to have Korean MPs in the area if the checking of rosters is resumed, I shall arrange with General Bryan, First Corps Commander, to include Korean MP with the Marine MP now authorized to operate in the Demilitarized Zone. I have also asked him to regard Brig. General Park Young Zoon, presently on duty in the area with UNCREG, as your representative to be kept closely informed with regard to activities relating to the PW in the Demilitarized Zone. General Park will be given all the opportunities for observation from the border of the Demilitarized Zone which are available to our UN officers and direct access to the Korean MP when they return from duty in the Demilitarized Zone. Thus there will be a channel of prompt and reliable reports directly to you which I hope will dispel some of the impressions which you have received from less accurate sources.

Hoping that this procedure will allay your understandable concern for the well being of the PW, I am sincerely yours,

Maxwell D. Taylor, General
U.S.A. Comdg.

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