

## **January 26, 1951**

### **Harold Lady, Memorandum on George T. Walker**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Harold Lady introduced George T. Walker as a potential candidate to work with Syngman Rhee.

#### **Credits:**

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SUBJECT: GEORGE T. WALKER

Mr. Walker is 33 years of age. His wife and two children recently returned to the U.S. because of the war. He was educated at the Universities of Cincinnati and California and the Colorado School of Mines (considered the best in its field) and is a well qualified mining and industrial engineer. His cultural education has not been neglected, and I consider him an unusually brilliant young man.

During the World War he rose to Lt. Colonel at the age of 27 on General MacArthur's staff. After the war he served for three years as a SCAP engineer, partly in uniform and for a while as a civilian. At present he is spending one day a week in uniform as a Reserve Lt. Colonel assigned to SCAP as a project engineer.

For the past two years he has maintained an office in Tokyo as a consulting engineer, and has been quite successful financially. His principal client is the Great Lakes Carbon Company and he plans next month to close his Tokyo office to accept a full time position with this company in the U. S. The company has agreed to give him six months leave before he enters upon his new duties, and he would like to devote this time to your service.

It should be mentioned that, in addition to reporting to you for interview, he hopes on his first trip to Pusan to introduce the use of petroleum charcoal (or petroleum coke), an inexpensive fuel for cooking and home heating of which the Great Lakes Carbon Company is a major producer. However, if you should decide that you wish to engage Mr. Walker, his commercial connection should not prove an embarrassment. His company is sufficiently large for the State Department to be deferential toward it. He is not a salesman, and will recommend only that the Korean Government request the U.S. and U.N. relief agencies to buy petroleum charcoal for Korea and trust to his company to be the lowest



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bidder when procurement is effected in Washington. So far as he is concerned the question of whether Korea wishes to obtain petroleum charcoal (coke) will be decided during his first visit to Korea and, inasmuch as it costs only from 20% to 25% as much as wood charcoal, and much less than firewood, I am certain that the decision will be in the affirmative. Thereafter he need have no further commercial interests.

While his governmental experience has been limited to military and SCAP service, I feel that he may be more effective in helping you than some one with a broader background. He thoroughly understands the operations of the U.S. Army and SCAP and is on intimate terms with many of the officials in Korea and Japan whose activities directly affect Korea. Also, quite by accident, he is very well acquainted at the Tokyo Correspondents Club where he is regarded highly. In fact, it was the Far East Director for United Press that first recommended him to me.

Mr. Walker has a theory, which I hope is correct, which is the basis for his considering a tour of duty in Korea, that the State Department is rather worried concerning the ultimate consequences of its attitude toward me and will cooperate with him rather whole-heartedly so that it may defend itself by taking the position that it is not antagonistic toward American advisors to foreign governments, but only toward me personally.

I am convinced that Mr. Walker's interest in working for you is based primarily on his strong anti-communist convictions, a desire to make a name for himself, and a spirit of adventure which, I am sad to say, most of the other possible candidates with whom I have talked seemed to lack. He has an excellent reputation, and I have great confidence in him. Even if you should find that you did not care to engage him for the full six months during which he will be available, I believe that he will accomplish considerable good and do no harm.

Sincerely,

  
HAROLD

P.S. I have not discussed salary with him, but believe \$1,250.00 would be acceptable to him.

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