



**Princeton Diplomatic Invitational**  
**February 9-11, 2018**

**Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea**  
**Alis Yoo, Chair**

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**LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE DIRECTOR**

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Delegates,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the first iteration of the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational! I hope that each and every one of you will walk away from our conference having enjoyed the debates you will have and the people you will meet.

Allow me to tell you the story of how we got here. For years, Princeton has hosted the Princeton International Crisis Simulation - better known as PICSim - which brought innovative approaches, like a conference-wide Joint Crisis Committee, to the college Model UN circuit. However, the past two years brought with them an unfortunate decline in the quality of PICSim.

We sought to change that. The decision to rebrand ourselves as the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational was one to begin a new era for Princeton's college conference. The changes were greater than just a new name; rather, we brought about a new conference schedule, a smaller Secretariat, improved communication with delegations, and, true to the original iteration of PICSim, a six-way Joint Crisis Committee that promises to be better staffed than ever before.

Here's to the first Princeton Diplomatic Invitational. Let us make it memorable.

Sincerely yours,

Elkhyn R. Rivas Rodriguez,

Director, Princeton Diplomatic Invitational I

# Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea PDI 2018

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Dearest delegates,

Welcome to the inaugural iteration of the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational! My name is Alis Yoo, and I'll be the chair of the South Korean committee this year. Just a little about me: I'm from Palisades Park, New Jersey, and I'm a junior in the History department, focusing on contemporary U.S. history. I'm the President of the International Relations Council, the umbrella organization that oversees all things Model UN at Princeton, including PDI. I'm also the President of the Asian American Students Association, Princeton's only political AAPI organization.

I have high expectations for our committee. A 6-way Joint Crisis Committee is always a tough environment to operate in, but when you feel like your war plans are falling through, your spies are giving you faulty information, or the bomb you're building in your grandma's backyard has accidentally been triggered, please remember: diamonds can only be made under pressure. I can't wait for you to glitter and shine in our committee room.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me ([ayoo@princeton.edu](mailto:ayoo@princeton.edu)). The fate of South Korea is in your hands.

Sincerely,

Alis Yoo

Chair, Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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### **The Beginnings of the Cold War**

The Second World War in Asia was brought to a dramatic end in August 1945 with the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet invasion of Japanese-controlled Manchuria, and finally the surrender of Japan. However, while the allies had, at least in theory, agreed to the post-war situation in Asia, it quickly became apparent in the three years following the end of the war that they had differing goals for Asia's geopolitical organization.

The aftermath of the war and the story of the changes in the relationships between the victors is complex and multifaceted. However, it is clear that the period saw increasing distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Allies had agreed in a series of conferences on many of the aspects of the post-war peace, including such lasting arrangements as the United Nations. From these conferences, it seemed to the Americans that the Soviets would allow free and fair elections to take place in Eastern Europe. However, as Soviet forces continued their occupation of Eastern Europe and began a series of rigged elections that brought Communist governments to power, the American government became convinced that the Soviets sought to establish their power more broadly and beyond their own borders. During this time, the United States took steps to ensure the democratic and pro-American alignment of governments in Europe that were occupied by American, British, and French forces. It was clear to the Soviets that the Americans and their allies were willing to take whatever steps necessary to secure friendly governments in the areas they occupied. The culmination of this was the declaration of the Truman Doctrine in the spring of 1947. In this famous speech to Congress, Truman asked for \$400 million dollars to support the governments of Greece and Turkey, asserting the country's support of all "free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures," thus effectively announcing the United States' intent to support governments against communist forces.

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This was followed up with the announcement of the Marshall Plan in June of 1948 to rebuild the economies of Europe. The theory among American policymakers was that a strong economic recovery would decrease support for communist parties in the Western European countries, especially France and Italy. Fearing a loss of influence if Eastern Bloc countries accepted this aid, Stalin prevented them from participating in the plan. When the Western allies continued to go ahead with the economic normalization and political organization of West Germany, Stalin responded by consolidating control over East Germany. At the end of June 1948, when the Western allies intended to introduce a new Deutsch Mark, Stalin began the Berlin Blockade. The allies responded by launching the Berlin Airlift, and in July of 1948 it became clear that the geopolitical situation had changed from that of allies to that of rivals and adversaries.

While the events in Europe influenced and essentially defined the relationship between the two countries and their strategic perception of each other, events in East Asia continued apace. In the immediate aftermath of the war, American forces occupied Japan, the southern half of Korea, and the Philippines, and Soviet forces occupied Manchuria and the northern half of Korea. American Marines were also sent to assist in the handover of major ports by the Japanese, to ensure the handover went to the Nationalist government of the KMT rather than to the Communists. In the same manner, British and French troops were moved rapidly in Southeast Asia to Indochina, Malaya, and the East Indies to ensure that the handover of authority by the Japanese forces were to colonial authorities rather than to nationalists or communists. Thus, in the immediate aftermath of the war, it seemed that the Americans and their allies had been able to seize much of the strategic high ground.

Despite these advantages in the post-war strategic positions, the initial actions in 1945-1946 did not lead to outright conflict. The Nationalists and Communist reached an accord of sorts with the Double Tenth Agreement and the Chongqing conference, and the Soviets and Americans attempted to come to an understanding on the status of Korea with the Soviet-American Commission. At the

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same time, the American forces consolidated their occupation of Japan. These ongoing events led to a lull in tensions in East Asia.

However, things soon took a more interesting turn: the Communists in China had secured wide support among the populace and the Nationalist had borne the brunt of the war, anti-colonial movements in Southeast Asia gained momentum, the Soviets were able to transfer resources and equipment to the Communists in Manchuria, and the government set up in northern Korea was quite successful in consolidating power. In southern Korea, American attempts to set up a government were met with popular resistance and lacked legitimacy. This set the stage for further advances of the Communists, as post-war attempts to reach a negotiated settlement failed and the Nationalist attempt to consolidate control in Manchuria failed during the Communist offensives of 1947.

Thus, during the latter half of 1947 and first half of 1948, Communist forces were able to reverse the tide of battle and capture most of the countryside in northern China and Manchuria, and capture major cities in the critical center of the North China Plain. Importantly too, the Americans had become suspicious of the capability of the Nationalist government to form a legitimate democratic regime and began to draw down on their support of the regime. This was especially apparent as General Marshall's attempts to make peace between the Communists and Nationalists were thwarted by Nationalist intransigence. Marshall, by 1948 the Secretary of State, warned Congress that he thought efforts to support the Nationalists in an all-out war with Communists would be fruitless and a waste of resources. On the other side of things, however, it was important to note that Stalin still pressed for the Communists to maintain their alliance with the Nationalists, and remained intensely skeptical about the Chinese Communists.

### **Korea**

After the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Imperial Japan annexed Korea in 1910. Korea was the first step in Japan's path to establishing an empire in East Asia. Serving both as an extractive colony,

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via Japan's industrialization and taxation policies, and as a stepping stone to Manchuria and China, Korea was a critical part of Japan's empire.

During the decades of Japanese rule, Korean dissidents were scattered and unable to form any semblance of a united opposition to Japanese rule. While the traditional sources of authority were eliminated or co-opted into Japanese rule, exile groups sought to advocate for independence in exile. While the first ten years of Japanese rule saw a very authoritarian regime restrict almost activity, the March First Movement in 1919 brought about a more relaxed civilian rule. However, this still encouraged dissenters, as rights continued to be severely restricted. In Chinese coastal centers (Shanghai and Guangzhou), dissenters formed the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in 1919; despite the government's inability to garner much support or many resources, its leaders would later serve as some of the people who formed the core of the post-war governments in Korea. Throughout the 1920's repressive Japanese rule continued, even as the country was industrialized and agricultural output was intensified, all in service of Japanese interests both government and business. In 1931, the military was returned to power in Korea. This led to a period of increased subjugation as Koreans were forced to adopt Shinto practices and Japanese names. Millions of Koreans were forced to work in mines, factories, and as sex workers for the Japanese as war efforts in China and eventually the Pacific picked up pace in the 1930's.

At the Cairo Conference between Franklin Roosevelt, Chiang Kai-Shek, and Winston Churchill, it was agreed that the post-war independence of Korea must be ensured. This was followed by Stalin's agreement at the Yalta Conference on a short period of trusteeship splitting the peninsula between American and Soviet forces. The occupation zones were decided along the 38th parallel. This left the Americans with occupation of a territory that included 16 million people and the capital Seoul, and the Soviets with nine million people and most of the Japanese industrial centers, including Pyongyang.



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Occupation itself began soon after the Japanese surrender, with Soviet forces rapidly taking over the northern half of the country by the end of August 1945 and American forces taking control of the South by the end of September. However, the Imperial Japanese authorities had taken governmental transition matters into their own hands by helping forming the Committee for the Preparation of Korean Independence, which was led by Lyuh Woon-Hyung. Koreans of all ideological stripes were convinced at this time that the most important political goal was the immediate creation of self-government. The group worked to establish People's committees throughout the country. This committee then established a government in Seoul called the People's Republic of Korea in early September. However, the United States Military Government soon abolished the government in the South while the People's Committees in the North were co-opted by the Soviets. Lyuh Woon-Hyung stepped down in order to form the People's Party of Korea and continued to stringently argue for a unified Korea. In the same way, the US administration did not recognize the Provisional Government that was returning from exile in China; the members of this government were not afforded any role by virtue of their exile government.

While the Soviets and Americans agreed on unification in principle, the allies conceived of a "trusteeship" government for four years under the four powers of the Soviets, Americans, British, and Chinese. They announced this policy in early 1946. This resulted in violent reactions throughout Korea. The opposition to trusteeship led to the Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R Commission to meet in Seoul from March to August in 1946. This commission failed to find a compromise for unifying Korea, as the Soviets refused through various means to allow for opposition Korean groups from being consulted. This was mainly accomplished by their demand that any parties opposed to trusteeship could not be included in the consultation process. The Americans disagreed with this demand, as they felt that this would have excluded too broad a swathe of the Korean political spectrum. Faced with Soviet opposition, the United States referred the question to the nascent United Nations.

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### **United States Army Military Government in Korea**

Soon after occupation began, differences in the policies quickly set the two occupation zones on separate paths. Starting with the announcement of the trusteeship, things began to get interesting in the American zone. After violent protests, the Americans responded by forming the Representative Democratic Council in February 1946, with Syngman Rhee serving as chairman.

The American Military Government co-opted Japanese governor by using them as advisors, a very unpopular move. This compounded the previous disbandment of the People's committees. After the appointment of the advisory Representative Democratic Council in early 1946, the government organized the Interim Legislative Assembly in late 1946, with elections for half of the members and the other half appointed by the American Military Government. This government had the power to enact some laws, but was subject to a military veto.

Thus, in late 1946 with the Interim Legislative Assembly elections, discontent boiled over in the Autumn Uprising. The uprising demanded the restoration of the people's committees, higher wages, and the release of prisoners. Protesters stormed police stations, and the entire movement was quickly suppressed with force by the American military government. Meanwhile, the election itself for the Interim Legislative Assembly was boycotted by leftist parties and some further right parties, leading to the election of the moderate right wing supporters of Kim Kyu-Sik. However, this Assembly had no choice but to oppose trusteeship as the representatives of the people, and soon voted to condemn the trusteeship plan.

The Soviets rejected the UN plan in September 1947 to hold Korea-wide elections for a National Assembly. Soon, it became obvious to the southern government that the Soviets were not going to acquiesce to American plans for a unified Korea. Developments in the North made clear that they intended to set up a communist government (see below). Therefore, politicians were left with two basic choices: gain independence in the South but face a division of Korea, or postpone

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independence while waiting to resolve division. Kim Kyu-Sik and Kim Ku decided to pursue the latter, and went on missions to talk with the North Korean government that had been formed. Thus, they held out the hope in spring of 1948 for a resolution of division, and they opposed the elections that the UN Temporary Mission went forward with in spring of 1948. Furthermore, the moderate left-wing leader Lyuh Woon-Hyung had been assassinated in 1947 by a radical right-wing fanatic, so the moderate leftists were in disarray. Thus, Syngman Rhee was in position to send his supporters to the Assembly.

The United State Military Government went ahead with the legislative elections in May of 1948, despite opposition by some members of the UN Temporary Commission. Discontent with the divided election was rife in the south. On Jeju Island, thousands rose up against the decision to have a divided election in February, 1948. The uprising was suppressed by the forces of the interim government, leading to the deaths of thousands. Rhee's supporters won the election and the National Assembly in the South was controlled by right-wing nationalists. They adopted a constitution and went ahead with a presidential election in July of 1948, which Syngman Rhee won. Still, they held off on a full declaration of independence, but it was clear in July 1948 that they intended to declare it soon.

During this time, the economy of the south suffered from its severance from the industrial heartland of the country in the north. Rampant inflation made it hard for the businesses that there were to survive and invest, and there was a lack of demand. The U.S. provided aid during this time, but this was more in the form of clothes and food and less in capital goods for the construction of a self-sufficient economy.

### **Soviet Civil Administration for North Korea**

Meanwhile, the Soviets occupation in the north began with at least some Korean assistance. Korean Communists who had worked with communists in insurgencies in Manchuria were put in

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place as government officials in the north. These communists took control of the People's Committees that had sprung up in the aftermath of Japanese withdrawal, allowing the Soviets to immediately set up a domestic, non-foreign, civilian government. Just as in the South, the prominent political leaders opposed the trusteeship plan in early 1946. The leader of the Northern government and the most prominent Korean independence figure in the North was Cho Man Sik. However, he publicly opposed the trusteeship plan, and disappeared into arrest. By February 1946, the provinces under Soviet control formed the Provisional People's Committee for North Korea. This government adopted the structure of the Soviet Union's government. Kim Il-Sung, first secretary of the Central Bureau of the Communist Party was selected as chairman of this government. Within a year (February 1947), a legislative body called the Supreme People's Assembly was created. This Supreme People's Assembly went ahead with the creation of a new government, and in April 1948 a new constitution was adopted.

These governments adapted a series of reforms to crush opposition and establish a communist state in the north. Land redistribution went ahead nearly immediately in March of 1946. This led to a huge exodus of landowners and other to the south, where US military government numbers indicated 400,000 refugees from the north arrived. This also likely included those who depended on incomes from the industries that were also nationalized in the north. Meanwhile, the co-opted moderate leftist groups, including the Korean Democratic Party and the Young Friends' Party were increasingly sidelined in the government as the popular moves of the Communists were celebrated. Nonetheless, the communists themselves were far from unified in the government. While some communists had served, like Kim Il-Sung, as insurgents in armies supported by the Soviets in Manchuria, others had served with the Chinese while others came from more intellectual backgrounds working underground in Korea and Japan.

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This was buttressed by an emphasis on propaganda by the government, celebrating communist values, policies, and programs. The propaganda was also increasingly focused on the person of Kim Il-Sung himself. North Korean propaganda was quite successful in spreading communist ideology by adopting Marxism in the Korean cultural context. The communists focused on the glorification of human will and collective spirit, blending well with traditional Confucian ethics. This also was seen in a focus on the sense of order, with Kim Il-Sung on the top.

The Soviets quickly increased their trade relations with the North Korean regime, and even as the amount of aid decline from 1946 to 1948, trade increased by 200% the first year and by 350% the second. This was part of a campaign to rapidly “modernize” the economy in combination with the land reforms and nationalization. Koreans were keen to reverse the decades of exploitation by the Japanese and the previous centuries of isolationism before the Japanese. These efforts garnered the North Korean government much support from the people during this era - a considerable advantage in comparison to the efforts in the South.

Thus, by summer 1948, the North and the South had gone on very different political and economic paths. The North consolidated power underneath communist rule, but this rule was created by co-opting indigenous efforts at political organization and attacking the interests of a small elite class. The region, already more industrial under Japanese rule, continued industrialization and modernization. Meanwhile, in the South, American military rule shut down the Korean opposition over and over again, and political maneuvering isolated many parts of the population. The American military administration is slated to turn control of the country over to the newly-elected National Assembly and President Syngman Rhee on August 15, 1948.

### **CHARACTER LIST**

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#### **Yi Si-yeong, Vice President of the Republic of Korea**

Yi Si-yeong current serves as Syngman Rhee's Vice President. During Japanese rule, Yi was an outspoken independence fighter and served as a senior officer in the Korean provisional government. As an esteemed neo-Confucianist scholar and independence activist, he is both highly-educated and widely-respected. As Vice President of the Republic, Yi is privy to many of Syngman Rhee's conversations and may inquire into the workings of senior government officials from time to time. The Office of the Vice President, like that of the President, may not be audited by government authorities. As a result, Yi bears the sole responsibility for ensuring that his Office spend government funds wisely.

#### **Sin Ik-hui, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea**

Sin was a prominent independence activist during the Japanese occupation of Korea and was exiled to Shanghai in his youth. In China, he helped create the Korean provisional government. Sin is the inaugural Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic. Known for his ability to bridge divides within government factions, Sin is popular with politicians across the political spectrum. Thanks to both his internal government popularity and his rank within the Assembly, Sin has been able to develop well-placed informants across the government. Additionally, his well-known reputation for integrity and clear liberal inclinations ensure his ability to marshal the loyalty and support of wealthy liberal donors.

#### **Kim Gu, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea**

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Kim was one of the founders of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea based in Shanghai, created while he was in exile there. Kim was briefly president of this provisional government in 1927 and again from 1940 to 1948, and aligned himself with the Chinese Nationalist Party in 1937 to protest Japan. He has pushed for reunification of the Koreas, believing patriotism should be valued over even ideology, and has had a life-long rivalry with Syngman Rhee, now President of the Republic of Korea. Kim, having been jailed multiple times for independence fighting, holds great public appeal with the people of Korea and is able to sway rouse them to act in his favor with his persuasive writings. Kim currently serves as one of the most influential politicians in the Republic's National Assembly.

### **Yun Chi-young, proposed Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Korea**

One President Syngman Rhee's personal secretary, today Yun leads the Interior Ministry. Fiercely anti-Japanese, Yun leads the radical nationalist wing in the National Assembly. The scion of a powerful and well-connected family, Yun's ability to and propensity for calling in favors well-known. As Minister of the Interior, Yun, like Kim Chang-ryong, is charged with internal security. Yun's Ministry houses numerous agencies to aid him in that regard, including the Office of Financial Accountability, which may audit private and public institutions, and the Internal Security Bureau, which governs the Republic's police forces. While Yun retains the powers and privileges of the Minister, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Cho Bong-am, proposed Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Korea**

Cho was active in the Communist Party during the 1920s while studying in Japan and the Soviet Union. During the Japanese occupation, however, Cho defected from the Communist Party, disillusioned by its submissiveness to the Soviet Union. Nonetheless, Cho maintains reliable contacts with Communist

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sympathizers in the Republic and with members of the Workers' Party of Korea in the North. Cho is the Republic's inaugural Minister of Agriculture. Thus, he is charged with securing a stable food supply for the Republic's populace and overseeing all initiatives related to improving the country's agricultural productivity. As the government must first inspect all crops before they travel to market, Cho's ministry at one point or another manages all food within the country. While Cho retains the powers and privileges of the Minister, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Kim Do-yeon, proposed Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Korea**

Though born in Korea, Kim was educated in Japan, where he was frequently part of student societies - largely composed of native Koreans - who strove for Korean independence. Because of this, he has a long history with the Japanese authorities, frequently being arrested. Following his education in the United States, where he received a doctorate in economics in 1931, he returned to Korea to teach at a university, until he was appointed as the first Minister of Commerce, a role that later evolved into the Minister of Finance and Strategy. He controls taxation and fiscal policy and has the sole authority to make policy in this field. While Kim retains the powers and privileges of the Minister, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Chang Myon, proposed Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations**

Once a Roman Catholic activist and teacher, Chang today heads the Republic's delegation to the United Nations. He has worked tirelessly to secure recognition of the Republic's sovereignty by the international community. Thanks to his international connections, Chang can marshal the support of South Korean allies across the global community in support of what he deem worthy causes.



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Additionally, Chang has proven a beloved and influential figure within the Republic's Catholic community, thanks to his well-known work on behalf of the Catholic Church in his earlier days. While Chang retains the powers and privileges of the Representative, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Yun Posun, proposed Mayor of Seoul**

The son of a wealthy family, Yun was educated in Scotland and entered Korean politics after the liberation of the peninsula following the Second World War. Yun was appointed to run Seoul by President Syngman Rhee himself. Yun's tensions with Rhee have become apparent as of late, as the mayor is rumored to resent the president's authoritarian tendencies. As mayor of the capital city of the Republic, Yun controls via his deputies all facets of the city's government. Thanks to its national importance, Seoul is home to an extensive gendarmerie that ensures order and secures all non-military governmental institutions. While Yun retains the powers and privileges of the Mayor, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Paik Sun-yup, proposed Chairman of the Combined Chiefs of Staff of the Republic of Korea**

Paik is the first four-star general in the history of the South Korean military. After graduation from the Mukden Military Academy, he became an officer in the Japanese Imperial Army in Manchukuo (the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria), where he specialized in guerrilla suppression. He then joined the Constabulary - the predecessor to the newly formed army - where he focused on building discipline, crushing communism, and purging the army of leftist subversives. He is currently in control of the army, which still has not fulfilled its potential and is limited in size and power. While Paik retains

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the powers and privileges of the Chairman, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Sohn Won-yil, proposed Chief of Naval Operations of the Republic of Korea**

Sohn is the inaugural Chief of Naval Operations of the Republic of Korea. Widely regarded as the person responsible for the creation of a modern Korean navy, his ties to maritime operations originate with his father, a prominent sea merchant and independence activist. Sohn directly controls all elements of the Republic's small but efficient maritime armed forces, including its sailors, marines, and intelligence corps. While Sohn retains the powers and privileges of the Chief, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

### **Kim Chang-ryong, proposed Chief of the Counter Intelligence Corps of the Republic of Korea**

Kim rose quickly through the ranks of the Korean army to become a high-ranking officer and, ultimately, the head of the Korean Counter Intelligence Corps. Kim is firmly opposed to Communism and highly loyal to President Syngman Rhee. Generally, Kim is charged with investigating and, if necessary, arresting treasonous and corrupt politicians and other government officials. American General Douglas MacArthur has been rumored to refer to Kim as "The Snake" for his reputation for pursuing opponents relentlessly. Thanks to his direct control of the Counter Intelligence Corps, Kim is able to use government security personnel and funds in furtherance of his internal security goals. While Kim retains the powers and privileges of the Chief, he will not formally assume the role until August 15, 1948, the date when the American governorship over the south is slated to terminate.

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### **Park Heungshik, Chairman of the Hwashin Group**

Park is the founder of Hwashin Group, one of the first conglomerates in Korea, called a “chaebol” for his extensive business pursuits and participation in multiple areas of industry, including construction and chemicals. Park is extremely influential in the business industry and his previous development proposals, particularly in Seoul, have brokered him connections to prominent political leaders. Park’s successful businesses have given him the ability to speak with and influence politicians.

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