

it as its membership was composed of young men from North Korea, whose families were still there. And, because they had been treated badly in the North and had a burning hatred for anything smacking of communism, they believed that they should treat their opponents in a similar fashion.

Although the United States military authorities had estimated that the flow from the North would amount to approximately 10,000 the previous month, the number had amounted to nearly 20,000, many of the refugees evaded the registration centres in order to go where they pleased in South Korea.

Mr. MUGHIR (Syria) raised the question of ration cards and their significance as an element in a free atmosphere for elections. Although those opposing the elections might state that there was a threat of the suspension of rice ration cards as a pretext, the fact had been reported on more than one occasion.

General DEAN explained that all officials, both United States Military and Koreans, had been instructed not to suspend ration cards, and he had set out the directive, mentioned before, to this effect on 13 April.

Mr. MUGHIR (Syria) also raised the question of the youth organizations. The Commission had been told that all chiefs of police had been instructed by the Department of National Police that youth organizations were not to participate in the elections. However, when he had asked the chiefs of police interviewed during the observation trips concerning the matter, they did not seem to have received any instructions at all. The National Youth Corps seemed to be peaceful, but other youth organizations claimed that they were in close connexion with the police and of considerable assistance to them.

General DEAN attributed the answers of the chiefs of police to a possible language barrier or unreliability of the person interviewed. He had heard the Director of the National Police give oral instructions to all the division chiefs of police at the Police College, and later before all the Korean governors, that youth organizations were not to take any part in the elections. He had a duplicate copy of the different instructions; he would take this matter up with the officials concerned when he visited the provinces and also with the Director of Police.

Mr. PATTERSON (Canada), who had travelled with the representative of Syria, said that, when the specific question had been put to the provincial chiefs of police, he was sure that there was no question of language difficulty, and, in three cases, provincial chiefs of police had stated that they had not received instructions from the National Director of Police regarding youth groups.

Mr. MANET (France), although he realized that there was a serious lack of office space, felt that it would have been better to avoid registration taking place in the same office where the rationed commodities — rice notably — were distributed. The rumours concerning pressure connected with rice rationing had obviously their origin in such mistakes. However, the situation was not the same when registration was taking place in administrative offices, which were responsible for the

distribution of rice ration cards but also performed numerous other functions: this was the case in most other countries of the world. In any case, he wished to point out that registration only was concerned and not actual voting, which, after all, was not so serious, considering that the procedure of registration was almost automatic in many advanced democracies. In the future it would be advisable to see to it that polling places were not located in offices where ration cards are issued.

As a member of Group I, he also wanted to call the attention of General Dean to the fact that the Korean police were sometimes reverting to methods inherited from the Japanese, and he referred to two deaths of Koreans, which had occurred during interrogations by the local police on the Island of Cheju Do. His Observation Group knew of such deaths only through an open and sincere statement of the American Adviser, to whom he was glad to pay a tribute. But he was wondering whether such methods were used on the island as retaliation against the killings of police people, or if they were still in use in the whole of South Korea, in spite of the efforts that seemed to have been made by the United States military authorities to stop them.

In any case, there clearly was no justification for such criminal acts, the generalization of which would be highly detrimental to the conclusions of the Commission regarding the free atmosphere for elections.

General DEAN stated that one of the deaths had occurred on 6 March, was investigated, and the case referred for trial to a military court.

An investigation of the second case was now being made. If the investigation revealed the conditions alleged, the guilty parties would likewise be tried by military court.

It had always been the concern of the United States authorities to prevent such practices.

It was indeed probable, as suggested by the delegate from France, that the wanton killing of so many police and police families by members of the South Korean Labour Party, on the Island of Cheju Do, influenced the police in these particular cases to take such harsh measures upon capturing some of the culprits. However, such action on the part of the police would not be tolerated. Personnel transfers had been effected and instructions to that effect reiterated.

Mr. PATTERSON (Canada) shared the fear of the United States Military Governor concerning unfounded Press reports and rumours expressing the attitude of the Commission.

He wished to give his impression concerning a free atmosphere for elections, subject to revision in light of further reflection and new information. On the whole, Koreans seemed keenly interested in the elections: committees were well organized and their members well informed; United States military officials seemed sincere concerning the achievement of a free atmosphere; there was much variation in opinion among United States and Korean authorities as to the activities of the leftist groups, but all seemed to feel that these activities were planned and directed by the communists, and expected an increase in these activities as indicated by captured documents; some officials, particularly the police and governors, doubted the wisdom of Ordinance 176, and feared that the release of political prisoners would be interpreted