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Report of the Hungarian Embassy in Pyongyang to the foreign minister

2 December 1969

EMBASSY OF THE HUNGARIAN
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

97/Szt/1969.

To Comrade Foreign Minister!

Budapest

I hereby submit our memorandum written on the subject, the contents of which I have already reported on in a telegram.

I consider noteworthy the information recorded in the enclosed memorandum concerning the trip to Korea of Soviet Minister of the Interior Scholochov and the conversation of 7 November between Soviet Ambassador Sudarikov and Korean Foreign Minister Pak Son Chol. I request you to pass on this information to the competent party and government leaders.

Jenő Sebestyén

/Ambassador/

Top secret!

Phenyán, 2 December 1969.

Subject: Information of 12

November 1969 from

Soviet Ambassador

Sudarikov

Enclosure: 1 memorandum in two copies

Written: in three copies

two to Centre

one to Embassy

Referent: Lajos Karsai

Top secret!

97/Szt/1969. enclosure

Memorandum

Subject: The information received from Soviet
Ambassador Sudarikov

On 12 November of this year Soviet Ambassador Sudarikov informed the leaders of the Bulgarian, Czechoslovakian, Polish, Hungarian, Mongolian and GDR missions about the following:

1./ On the Korean trip of Soviet Minister of the Interior Scholochov.

The Korean Minister of Public Security had invited Andropov, the Chairman of the Soviet Public Security Committee and Scholochov, the Minister of the Interior of the Soviet Union to make a holiday visit to the PDRK at a time suitable for them. At the end of October and beginning of November this year, Minister of the Interior Scholochov accepted the friendly invitation in order to use the holiday for establishing personal contacts.

Scholochov, accompanied by a few persons, spent 11 days in the PDRK. He visited the sights of Phenyan, Vonsan and the Diamond Mountains, he met Minister of Public Security Kim Byong Ha. Before his departure home, he was received by Tsoy Yen Guen, a member of the KLP PC Presidium, a CC secretary and the President of the Supreme National Assembly Presidium.

The achievements of the visit may be summarised as follows: he reached his aim, besides having a holiday, he had the opportunity to have a look around in the country, to establish personal contacts, the Korean side expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Soviet organs of home affairs, but no concrete agreement has been concluded yet.

Tsoy Yen Guen explained in an original way to Scholochov the essence of the Korean "independent line", the "chuchhe", what it meant for the economy, politics and national defence. In his argumentation it seemed new that he started his explanation by mentioning the dissolution of the Comintern in 1943. He stressed that "the dissolution of the Comintern was made necessary by the fact that Communist and workers' parties started to become independent." He went on to discuss Korea's division in two parts. He emphasized that there was calm near the line of demarcation at the moment, that the Northern side did not want to strain the Korean situation. He also stressed that they did not think the situation was revolutionary in South Korea, the building of revolutionary bases there seemed to be a long process. He did not conceal, however, that the goal of the KLP was to create these revolutionary bases in South Korea as soon as possible. At the same time, he did not mention which way this would be realised. He did not deal with the question of external help either.

During the conversation Scholochov invited Tsoy Yen Guen to visit the Soviet Union, to which Tsoy Yen Guen replied that he might make a visit to the country in 1970.

On 19 November this year Soviet Ambassador-Counsellor Subnikov specially informed us /Sebestyén and Karsai/ also about the following concerning the Korean trip of Soviet Minister of the Interior Scholochov:

According to Koean Minister of Public Security Kim Byong Ha, in 1969 altogether 13 thousand prisoners have been registered in the PDRK. Among them there are approximately 100 persons who were not arrested for public security reasons but on common-law charges. In 1969 70 cases of theft and 22 murder cases have been recorded. In 10 out of the 22 murder cases, the crime was committed by perpetrators of unsound mind. In the PDRK there is no court institution. Questions of the sentencing of various criminals are decided by the competent department of the Ministry of Public Security. All common-law offenders are first sentenced to two or three years "educational work". In case of habitual offenders and those committing serious crimes against state security and treason, two types of sentences are carried out: a./ penal servitude for life or b./ death penalty passed by public revolutionary court, immediately and publicly executed in front of workers.

According to Scholochov and those accompanying him, the low rate of common-law criminals in the PDRK seems incredible.

2./ On Korean Foreign Minister Pak Son Chol's nearing visit to the Soviet Union

On 8 November this year, Pak Son Chol summoned Soviet Ambassador Sudarikov referring to "emergency" and informed him that the Korean party and government had made a decision that he (Pak Son Chol) was to make an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union in the near future.

Pak Son Chol was invited in the spring of this year during Podgorny's visit to Korea. He accepted the invitation at that time, but he has made no indication so far about the time of his visit.

The Soviet government is ready to receive Pak Son Chol as its own guest, said Comrade Sudarikov, but he has not been able to forward this message yet.

/As we have already indicated in a telegram, on 18 November Comrade Sudarikov forwarded the reply of the Soviet government to Comrade Kim Ir Sen, who stated in turn that he was going to realise his visit between 8 and 15 December./

3./ On the conversation between Pak Son Chol and Sudarikov at the reception of the Embassy of 7 November.

It was at the reception that Pak Son Chol announced that Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Dze Bong was going on an official visit to Finland and Sweden on 12 November. His goal is to conduct economic and political talks. Then Comrade Sudarikov suggested that Comrade Kim Dze Bong should also use this trip to express the PDRK's opinion concerning the planned conference on European security. He recommended Comrade Kim Dze Bong to be well-prepared as the Fins and Swedes would ask him about this in all probability. Afterwards the following conversation took place between Pak son Chol and Sudarikov:

Pak Son Chol - We, Koreans, do not understand this whole European security business. What is the purpose of all this? Against whom is this conference organized?

Sudarikov - I am ready to tell you about the whole issue related to European security. I suggest having a separate meeting concerning this matter. I do not think I could tell you about all the details my government would consider important for the Korean comrades to be aware of.

Pak Son Chol - We, Koreans, are not against peace in Europe. Only we do not know against whom this European peace is directed, what aim is pursued by insisting on it and, in general, why some people consider European security so important.

Sudarikov - I cannot believe that Comrade Pak Son Chol could be so uninformed. The creation of European security is directed against a new European war, which would mean a new world war, or more specifically, against the United States of America and her protégé, West-German revanchism.

Pak Son Chol - It is a good thing. But what if the participants at this conference on European security include the USA and Canada as well!? Not even West Germany should be allowed to participate in it! Do you think the nations of the world will understand the USA's participation at a possible conference on European security? You are mistaken. And in this case how will you be able to face the nations of the world? /Pak Son Chol was explaining this train of thought rather lengthily./

Sudarikov - The basic idea of the conference on European security is that all European countries are to participate, independently of their social order or political bias. Well, if West Germany is to participate on this basis, then how can we exclude, for instance, the USA and Canada, the countries that even participated in the fight against imperialist and fascist Germany in both world wars. Or: should European countries ignore the interests of the USA and Canada concerning developments in the European situation!?

Pak Son Chol - I agree that there is no point in discussing this question here at the reception any further. There is one thing, though, that you, Europeans should take into consideration: If you really want peace in Europe and in the world, you must aim at isolating the USA and all imperialist forces.

Comrade Sudarikov's conclusion: it is possible that the Korean comrades have incomplete information concerning the whole problem of European security. The Soviet side has not given an overall account of this matter yet. The Korean comrades seem to have been more interested in European questions recently. It would be reasonable for the friendly ambassadors to initiate discussions concerning this topic when the opportunity presents itself during their meetings with the Korean leaders. By all means, they will use Comrade Pak Son Chol's nearing visit to the Soviet Union for this purpose.

At the reception of 7 November, the second debatable issue was the question of the system of Asian collective security. In this relation, too, Comrade Pak Son Chol represented the opinion that the Korean side did not understand it, they did not know against whom it was directed in the final analysis. Comrade Sudarikov gave some explanations concerning this matter too, the essence of which was the following: The question of the creation of the system of Asian collective security was brought up several years ago. At that time it was also supported by the government of the People's Republic of China. Prime Minister Chou En-lai expressed his support in a special declaration then. Therefore, this Asian system of security, similarly to the European, is not directed against countries that have supported it in some way earlier already. Both systems are directed against international imperialism and its leading force, USA imperialism.

4./ On the trip of Korean Minister of National Defence Che Hyon to the Soviet Union.

In September this year Minister of National Defence Che Hyon spent a few days in Moscow for recreational reasons during his trip to Poland. When it was offered to him that he could visit military complexes as well, he rejected saying that, this time, all he wanted was to respond to Comrade Grechko's holiday invitation. During his stay in Moscow, he had friendly

discussions with Comrade Grechko. Che Hyon made a good impression on Moscow in general. He cannot be compared to his predecessor /Kim Chan Bong/, who mostly made the impression of a rude, narrow-minded person as far as his reactions and behaviour were concerned.

5./ On the trip of Kim Man Gym, the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the PDRK, to the Soviet Union.

At the end of September and beginning of October this year, Kim Man Gym stayed in the Soviet Union on the invitation of the Soviet Minister of Agriculture. Kim Man Gym is an extremely open-minded person and an excellent agricultural expert. He knows all minute details concerning his field of work. He is a nice person to have conversation with and also a resolute talking partner. /This is also reinforced by the Hungarian experience./ The results of his talks in the Soviet Union were the following: a./ he came to an agreement concerning the Soviet-Korean exchange of selected seeds; b./ he made a proposal on behalf of his government inviting the Soviet Union to organize an agricultural exhibition in Phenyang in the near future. This latter proposal was accepted by the Soviet side in theory, but they have agreed on no specific time yet.

To sum it up: Ambassador Sudarikov stressed before the friendly ambassadors that it would be reasonable to conduct similar exchanges of information in the future as well, as we could help one another's work this way. Once more, he drew attention to his exchange of ideas with Pak Son Chol, which revealed that Pak Son Chol, unsaid though, considered the security systems initiated by the Soviet Union and insisted on by the European socialist countries as "anti-Chinese". This attitude, however, does not seem to characterise Pak Son Chol only among the Korean leaders. The coming Soviet-Korean Meeting of Foreign Ministers will be important from the point of view of the discussion of these questions as well.

Phenyang, 29 November 1969.