

Korea Talks Snag On U.S. Aid Plans

Park Asks Agnew for Specifics

By Lee Lescaze

Washington Post Foreign Service

SEOUL, Aug. 26 (Wednesday)—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and South Korean President Chung Hee Park met again this morning at a hastily scheduled breakfast after unexpected misunderstandings developed in their talks yesterday.

Agnew and Park emerged from almost eight hours together in two sessions yesterday with no public statements except a terse Korean announcement that the talks had been "sincere and frank" and repeated no comments from American officials.

Agnew told waiting reporters in his hotel lobby at one point during the day that the talks were going "very well." However, American and Korean sources said that they did not.

All accounts of the meeting agreed that Agnew was unprepared for the specific questioning he received from President Park on what action America will take to bolster the Korean armed forces in compensation for the withdrawal of 20,000 American troops now based here.

The Korean leader refused to accept Agnew's general references to increased American military aid and listened im-



Associated Press

Vice President Agnew confers with South Korean President Chung Hee Park in Seoul.

passively to the Vice President's account of domestic pressures in the United States which made the troop withdrawal necessary this year, according to Korean sources.

After Agnew had finished his opening statement at what was scheduled to be a two-hour meeting with Park, the Koreans began close questioning aimed at pinning the United States to grants of specific numbers of dollars and weapons.

The talks, which began with only Agnew, Park and interpreters present, were enlarged to include aides on both sides, including U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter and Korean Foreign Minister Choi Kyuha. At intervals, American officials said, the American and Korean delegations huddled in separate rooms before resuming their confrontation.

It was evident that some Korean officials were not entirely unhappy about the snags that embarrassed Agnew on the first stop of his Asian tour.

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South Korea Presses Agnew For Specifics on Military Aid

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One official went out of his way to tell an American reporter that Agnew had had to check with the White House for further instructions.

This the official indicated, was proper retribution for the United States having taken Korean needs too lightly.

Koreans make it clear that they feel the United States has moved too quickly in announcing the withdrawal of more than a third of its force here before next July. "Koreans understand the Nixon doctrine," one source remarked, "They just don't feel it should apply to Korea."

Again and again in conversations here, Koreans speak of a special relationship between the United States and Korea forged during the Korean war. Seoul foreign policy for the last 20 years has been built from the base of close ties with the United States.

Korean leaders point out with mixed pride and chagrin that this country is perhaps unique among American-aided nations in the absence of "Yankee go home" signs. The reward for that absence should be special consideration, they believe.

Agnew began his visit to Korea by announcing that America will shift a wing of F-4 Phantom jets here from Japan and will soon give the Seoul government S-2 planes specially designed for detection of enemy ships at sea.

However, it became quickly apparent when Agnew met with President Park yesterday

that these promises had not taken the edge off Korean anxiety.

Park produced a list of weaponry that he wants for his air force, navy and army and asked Agnew to discuss it with him item by item. American officials refused to comment of the topics discussed but acknowledged that the Koreans had been unexpectedly specific.

Agnew said publicly before arriving in Asia to reassure U.S. allies: I am not carrying any specific new instructions or innovations that have not already been communicated to the foreign leaders."

The Koreans evidently wanted him to put his high-level stamp of approval on decisions that Washington is not yet ready to make.

Although it is unlikely that Agnew will have to change his schedule to answer further questions at his next three stops as he has done here, Tai-

wan, South Vietnam and Thailand share with South Korea a general uneasiness about American withdrawals from Asia.

After the six-hour working session in President Park's Blue House offices, the Korean government issued a statement saying: "At the meeting, the two leaders explained their own fundamental positions concerning the plans of modernizing the Republic of Korea army and of reducing a part of the U.S. forces stationed in Korea which are mutual concerns of both nations." The statement added that they had "exchanged their sincere and frank opinions."

The Korean government statement after the hour and 45-minute dinner meeting listed the guests at the banquet and gave notice that Agnew had changed his schedule this morning to meet Park for breakfast.

Mideast Deal Suspected in Gun Seizure

From News Dispatches

LONDON, Aug. 25—Police launched an international investigation into a suspected Middle East arms deal today after seizing a cache of guns and arresting one American and two Lebanese at the London Hilton Hotel.

The raid on the Hilton Monday night was one of the biggest operations of its kind in recent years. Police seized five machine guns, two pistols, a revolver and 1,548 rounds of ammunition.

The arrested men were identified as David Meiterman, 34, New York, Fouad Antoun 34, Beirut and Hassan Hussam, London.

Police sources said an alert Heathrow Airport customs officer tipped off Scotland Yard to the weapons, which were found at the hotel's luggage office. Scotland Yard detectives—some dressed as bell-boys, waiters, elevator men or posing as guests—watched all entrances to the 27-story hotel for more than seven hours before making the arrests, the sources said.