

# S. Korea Fired High KCIA

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The U.S. State Department confirmed yesterday that a high-ranking Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) official in Seoul was mysteriously fired last week by the South Korean government.

Yang Doo Won, who was known as Lee Sang Ho when he served in the South Korean Embassy here from 1972 to 1973, was the third-highest official in the KCIA at the time of his dismissal.

A Justice Department source with close knowledge of the ongoing federal investigation of KCIA activities and South Korean influence buying here said yesterday that the firing of Yang remains unexplained.

Published reports from Seoul have speculated that Yang was being held responsible for KCIA coordination of

the South Korean influence buying here, and U.S. intelligence community sources confirmed that Yang was in charge of coordination of such activities during 1972 and 1973 when he served as KCIA station chief here.

There is little evidence, however, to connect Yang with either of the two major figures under investigation here: South Korean businessman Tongsun Park and Pak Bo Hi, the chief aide to South Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon, a knowledgeable Justice Department source said.

Tongsun Park and Pak Bo Hi allegedly met with South Korean President Park Chung Hee and high-ranking KCIA officials in late 1970 to discuss a widespread lobbying and influence-peddling plan to "create a favorable legislative climate" for South Korea here, according to an intelligence report.

As the No. 3 man in the KCIA,

Yang was in charge of security with South Korea, a post roughly similar to FBI director. U.S. intelligence community sources consider it unlikely that Yang would have any "normal" control over any overseas operatives in that position.

Reports that Yang's dismissal will eventually be attributed to misuse of diplomatic pouches to ship cosmetics from the United States to Korea for his wife are given particular significance by knowledgeable government officials. They believe that a story published in *The Washington Post* on Oct. 28—which mentioned only Yang's wife briefly at the end of a lengthy article—deeply disturbed Korean intelligence officials.

In that story, a Korean-born Washington businessman, Hancho Kim, was quoted as saying that he has been visited at his Lanham, Md., home by a KCIA agent whose sole mission has

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been to pick up cosmetics and lingerie purchased here for Yang's wife.

Hancho Kim, a cosmetics distributor, spent 45 minutes before a federal grand jury here last month answering questions about his contacts with known KCIA agents in the embassy here.

According to Kim, his wife purchased the personal items for her friend Mrs. Yang and gave them to Kim Sang Keun to be transmitted back to Korea.

Hancho Kim, in an interview with two *Washington Post* reporters after his grand jury appearance, identified his wife's "friend" only as "a Mrs. Yang." He could not remember the first name of Mrs. Yang's husband. He held a "government job," Kim said, but he could not remember what it was.

Mrs. Kim, reached later, said she "knew her as Mrs. Lee." She could not

remember her friend's first name.

Kim Sang Keun, previously thought to be the deputy KCIA chief here, is now believed by U.S. intelligence officials to have had an unusual reporting relationship with Yang, which took him out of the chain of command within the KCIA station here.

Yung Hwan, is said to be unaware of the nature and scope of Kim Sang Keun's assignment here.

As a result of his independent relationship with KCIA officials in Seoul, Kim Sang Keun is reported to have caused considerable concern within the Washington KCIA station. His nominal superior, Maj. Gen. Kim

Another explanation was offered by one intelligence community source with extensive knowledge of the KCIA. Yang, this source explained, may have been selected as a scapegoat for the KCIA embarrassment over the scandal brewing here. His selection may relate less to his role in those ac-

tivities than to intrigues within the complicated power struggles for control of Korea's most influential branch of government.

Yang is widely believed to have been involved in the kidnaping from West Germany in 1967 of 17 South Korean students opposed to President Park. All the students were taken to Korea for trial and received long prison sentences. Several were condemned to death, and only the intervention of the Bonn government finally led to their freedom.

Yang was later linked, in 1973, to the Tokyo kidnaping of opposition political Kim Dae Jung. At that time, Yang was serving here under the name of Lee Sang Ho.

Yang was asked by the State Department to leave under threat of being otherwise declared *persona non grata* following accusations that he had harassed and intimidated South Koreans living here.