

SUBJECT: Actions and contacts made by ROKA Delegate prior to the UNC Proposal of 25 May 1953

18 May 1953, at Tokyo

I visited Major General Mudgett, J-3, UNC HQ, Tokyo and asked if he had any information to give, he said, "You know all I know." I asked, "Have you any new messages or instructions from Washington?" He said, "We have none".

22 May 1953, at Tokyo

General Harrison called me at his office of Chief of Staff, UNC HQ, and told me not to mention about negotiations toward outside.

24 May 1953, en route to Korea from Tokyo

General Clark called me on board a plane en route to Korea and emphatically told me to keep off the press, and he said that UNC has a new proposal which is the position of the U. S. Government therefore can not tell me about it. Gen. Clark also said that he would see the President to inform about new proposal, and again told me not to speak to any press even about his visit to the President.

25 May 1953, Munsan-Ni, Korea

Since I have come to realize that this day is most critical divide for us but I learned that there would be no routine morning conference until 0945 hours which used to take place at 0800 hours every morning, I stepped into General Harrison's tent to talk:

GEN. CHOI: Why is the meeting delayed until 0945?

GEN. HARRISON: That is to prevent leakage to the press.

GEN. CHOI: Would the new proposal hurt Korean people?

GEN. HARRISON: To have an armistice is good for Korea, if ROK opposes to it you might lose support from other allies.

GEN. CHOI: I appreciate your help to our country but as I have repeatedly say, this war is not merely for the Koreans but is the war of free nations against Communists. If we surrender our principle of no forced repatriation to the enemy the free nations' victory in World War III is doubted. The lives of 35,000 prisoners of war is out of question, but the question is to establish profound example of such grand principle.

GEN. HARRISON: I understand, but these is beyond my authority, I am just negotiating in the line of instructions I get, and General Clark is well aware of your position and will not be surprised even you walk-out.

GEN CHOI: I wish you to convey this view to your Government. I will wait until 0945 meeting.