

100,000 koku of rice had been annually imported from the mainland, only 7,000 koku were imported in 1949."

In order to establish a relief policy, the South Korean government, after late February, 1950, dispatched an inspection group made up of ministries employees to the spot and is reportedly considering measures to be taken.

2. Account Given by Secret Korean Entrants who Sought their Refuges in Japan.

On 11 May 1950 over 50 secret Korean entrants were drifted ashore at Nakanagaya, Shirozuga town, Shizuoka Prefecture. All of them came from Saishuto Island. In order to escape from the present starvation plight in the revolt-affected Island, they firmly decided to take refuge in Japan by selling all their properties for making travel expenses of ¥ 30,000 - ¥ 35,000 per head. They had nothing but one or two changes of clothes respectively.

They told as follows: From olden times the Island had few tracts of arable land and consequently the islanders lived by fisheries alone. As they have currently nothing to eat, they are forced to live on starch mixed with fruit and wild grasses.

Most of the houses on hills were destroyed by the communist revolt. A small number of houses remain near the coast. There are neither commodities nor medical facilities. Due to the medicine shortage since the communist invasion, there is no alternative but to die if the islanders get ill. Saishuto Island, beleaguered by starvation and civil war is just a living hell.

3. Island as a Base for the Communist Guerrillas in the South Korean Republic.

On 10 May 1948 when the general election was held on the Island, a violent struggle broke out between the communist guerrillas made a strike from the island and the government forces. Half of the election officials resigned from their posts.

Due to such changes, the election on the Island to be held over again. As a result, the communist guerrillas were elected.

It is reported that Soviet submarines anchored at some ports on the Island which has been a strong base for communist guerrillas. It is also reported that most organizers smuggling arms and munitions to the Island are dispatched by the communists of the Island.

Information on the Political Activities Regarding the Island.

It seems that with the Communists' invasion of Formosa at hand Gen. WU Tieh-sheng visited Korea to ask the South Korean government to lend air-bases to the Nationalists. Though the Korean government denied such fact, he seems to have asked for the permission of establishing air-bases in Jinsen and Saishuto Island.

It is, however, not yet known how the South Korean government replied to his request. Meanwhile, a Japanese who had recently a narrow escape from Saishuto Island said that an air-base is under construction there.

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CHEJU ISLAND

They are highly

provocative, however, and in recent years have reflected an antipathy toward their local officials because of the North Korean or at least military origin of virtually all the government personnel.

From 1948 to the spring of 1949, the island was a major center of Communist-fostered guerrilla activity. In armed conflict between guerrillas and government security forces, all but 10% of the 400 villages on the island were ravaged, many government offices and schools were burned, at least a tenth of the entire population of 255,000 left their land and took refuge in Cheju City, and a large proportion of the population was destitute and in need of relief. The guerrilla activity was virtually broken in the spring of 1949 in the first of three organized campaigns of the ROK Army against guerrilla areas in Korea. There have been only a few minor outbreaks since that time. Early in 1950, the government of the Republic of Korea appropriated funds and began planning a program of relief and reconstruction for the devastated island. In the normal course of events, economic conditions probably have improved considerably over 1950⁴⁹, but the programs of the government apparently were not put into operation prior to the June 25 invasion. There has been no confirmation or refutation of the claims by P'yongyang radio that post-invasion Communist guerrilla activity has reached serious proportions on Cheju.

민간인 문서
