

## THE KOREAN CRISIS

After the rejection of his proposal that negotiations towards a cease-fire should be reopened at Songhyon-ni, General Ridgway proposed, on October 4, that the enemy negotiators choose a site half-way between the lines of the two opposing armies. The enemy were unwilling to transfer the negotiations away from Kaesong but, as a result of General Ridgway's insistence, finally agreed to a meeting of liaison officers at Panmunjom, the place six miles south of Kaesong where messages had often been exchanged in the past. General Ridgway agreed to a meeting at the new site as he considered that Panmunjom would meet the "fundamental condition of equality of movement and control".

On October 8 the enemy suggested that both sides assume responsibility for the security of the neutral area around the conference site and agreed to discuss the regulations under which the meetings could be resumed. This again was a concession on the part of the enemy who had previously maintained that the main negotiations should be resumed where they had been broken off on August 22.

### Conduct of Future Negotiations

The liaison officers had lengthy discussions over the size of the neutral zone and the content of the regulations for resuming the negotiations. In the midst of these discussions the enemy charged that a United Nations air attack had taken place on Kaesong and Panmunjom killing one Korean and wounding another. This charge was admitted by General Ridgway who promised to take disciplinary action. Finally, on October 22, the two sides reached a series of agreements concerning the conduct of future negotiations as follows:

1. The specific site at which the conference of the delegations will be resumed is in the vicinity of Panmunjom.
2. The conference site area is a circular area having a radius of 10,000 yards centered on the conference site.
3. No hostile acts of any kind shall be carried out by any armed forces of either side including all regular and irregular units and armed individuals of the ground, naval and air forces, against the conference site area as defined above.
4. Except for the military police provided for below, no armed personnel of either side shall be permitted in the conference site area. Designated officers of both sides shall be jointly responsible for the security and the preservation of order within the conference site area. Each side shall provide a military police detachment of two officers and 15 men to assist in the performance of these duties while the delegation parties are present in the conference site area. During the periods when the delegation parties are not present in the conference site area, one officer and five men of the military police from each side will be stationed in the conference site area. The military police shall carry only small arms, namely pistols, rifles and carbines.
5. Both delegations and their parties shall have free access to, and free movement within the Panmunjom conference site area. The composition of each delegation party shall be as determined by the senior delegate thereof.
6. Physical facilities and communications and administrative arrangements with respect to the negotiations and the conference site area will be as agreed upon by the liaison officers of both sides. The delegation of the Korean Peoples Army and the Chinese Peoples Volunteers will be responsible for providing a suitable joint facility for use as a meeting place of the delegations and for the arrangements within the conference room. Except for this installation each delegation will provide its own facilities.