

In answer to Dr. Chough's suggestion that it would be desirable for Canada and Korea to sign a Treaty of Commerce and Amity, Mr. Pearson pointed out that Canada's constitutional make-up is such that treaties of this nature cannot be negotiated by the Federal Government, without causing complications in Dominion-Provincial relations. Mr. Pearson thought that the actual setting in motion of machinery to facilitate commerce was the important thing, to which Dr. Chough agreed.

Dr. Chough intimated that Korea might wish to purchase arms from Canada. Mr. Pearson said he felt that requests by the Korean Government for military supplies would be sympathetically received.

There was some discussion on the subject of a Pacific Pact against Communism. Dr. Chough stated that Korea would like to gain support for the anti-Communist agreement which has recently been made between Nationalist China, The Philippines and Korea. Mr. Pearson said that while traditionally and from political and economic necessity Canada's attention has been largely focussed upon the West, Canada nevertheless cannot be disinterested in the outcome of events in the Pacific area. Canada also has been concerned with the principle of collective security and the regional application of that principle. Mr. Pearson was of the opinion that important factors in any plan to contain the spread of Communism through Asia were the question of the ability of the Chinese Nationalist Government to hold out and the attitude of the United States. It would not be logical for Canada to adopt a positive attitude with regard to a Pacific Pact, when the United States had not done so. Dr. Chough agreed with the force of this reasoning but thought it unfortunate that the United States had not taken a position in support of the Chiang Kai-shek-Quirino-Rhee agreement.

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*Note de la direction des États-Unis et de l'Extrême-Orient*

*Memorandum by American and Far Eastern Division*

[Ottawa], August 11, 1949

INTERVIEW BETWEEN DR. P.Y. CHOUGH AND THE RIGHT HONOURABLE C.D. HOWE

At 11:30 A.M. on August 4, Dr. P.Y. Chough, Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Korea, had an interview with the Right Honourable C.D. Howe, Minister of (the Department of) Trade and Commerce. Mr. W.K. Wardrop of this Department was present.

After a few generalities Dr. Chough referred to the fact that Canada had been among those countries which had recognized the Government of Korea. He said that since Korea is among the countries opposed to the expansion of Communism, and at the present time is threatened by the Soviet Union and Communist China, his Government was seeking to strengthen their ties with the democratic nations, and for this reason felt that closer ties should be established between Korea and Canada. It was hoped that Canada would be able to establish diplomatic relations with Korea. If this was not found possible, however, then the question of exchanging Consular representatives might be considered. Mr. Howe said that he appreci-