

11. Mr. Johnson concluded by stating that the views which Dr. Chough had presented would be submitted to Mr. Pearson on his return to Ottawa. He was certain that the views of the Korean Mission would be given sympathetic consideration by the Canadian Government in their deliberations on the Korean question.

A.R. M[ENZIES]

[PIÈCE JOINTE 3/ENCLOSURE 3]

*Note de la Direction de l'Amérique et l'Extrême-Orient*

*Memorandum by American and Far Eastern Division*

[Ottawa, n.d.]

KOREAN MISSION'S INTERVIEW WITH THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER,  
OCTOBER 12, 1948

Dr. Pyung-ok Chough, head of the Korean Mission and Dr. Yil-hyung Chyung, Counsellor, called on the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent in the early afternoon of October 12. They were accompanied by Mr. A.R. Menzies of the Department of External Affairs.

2. After greeting the visitors, Mr. St. Laurent apologized for the short time at his disposal to talk with them. Prime Minister King's illness had upset schedule and it was necessary to crowd a lot of business into the short time before he left for London to replace Mr. King at the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers. Mr. St. Laurent was glad, however, to have the opportunity of shaking hands with the visitors and assuring them of the friendship of the Canadian people and the sympathetic interest of the Government in Korea and its problems.

3. Dr. Chough said that he had been asked by President Syngman Rhee to come to Ottawa to thank the Canadian Government for the part Canada had played in the last war resulting in the liberation of Korea from Japan and also for our assistance in the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea. He had also come to plead for Canada's continued friendship and support. He had explained his Government's position to officials of the Department of External Affairs and understood they would be reporting on the conversations to the Hon. L.B. Pearson. He had not come to ask us to change our policies; simply to thank us for our friendship and support in the past and to ask for its continuance.

4. Mr. St. Laurent said that while modern means of communications had greatly shortened distances, Korea was still quite a long way from Canada. The Canadian people generally were not very familiar with Korea's problems. Canadians cherished their own autonomy and were therefore sympathetic to the aspirations of other peoples for independence. We would be glad to see the Koreans achieve unity and independence. However in the present state of international tension it was important to consider very carefully any steps which might further aggravate relations between the Soviet Union and the rest of the world.