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Enclosure 2

KOREA

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Summary of Visit to Korea by Dr. Allan L. Forbes, September 27-October 1, 1960
(Accompanied by Dr. Zoltan Kertesz)

The following notes are prepared to lay emphasis on several aspects of our visit:

In spite of the fact that the ICNND has often held up the 70 percent undermilled rice program of the Korean Armed Forces as the example of a well organized, well supervised, and successful undermilled rice program, it was surprising how unfamiliar both KMAG and ROKA QM and medical personnel were on this matter. In fact, they thought it had been abandoned, until we searched around, finally getting the answer from the governmental Agricultural Products Inspection Office, who were able to tell us that 70 percent milling of government-owned rice (which of course includes all military rice) was still being rigidly adhered to. I think we put sufficient emphasis on this as immensely important in maintaining good thiamine nutrition that neither KMAG nor ROKA will forget about it for some time, and to insure that the program is in no immediate danger of being discontinued. In visiting several military messes, it was particularly interesting to me to find that 70 percent milled rice looks as white to me as 100 percent milled rice when cooked and served.

In July 1959, the ROKA went back to local procurement of food (except rice) by individual units on the basis of increasing flexibility, enhancing purchase of liked items within specific units, etc. It was ordered by the former Chief of Staff on a trial basis against the advice of KMAG. In talking to the QM General and his Staff, one got the impression that they weren't happy with the new system, but hadn't decided what to do about it. We supported KMAG in their endeavors to reinstitute central procurement.

It was interesting to learn that USOM has committed itself to provide sufficient support to the soybean industry that by 1962 all military soybean requirements will be met by the Korea-grown product.

KMAG were revising their concepts on the ROKA menu. We supported their ideas on the basis that the proposed changes were not nutritionally significant. They were actually recommending that the cigarettes be eliminated as an issue item and the men given the monetary equivalent.

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We strongly suggested to KMAG that means of further support for Lt. Colonel Kim's QM Testing Institute (QMTI) be sought, because they are a very eager group, working with very modest equipment in an old building (how they work in there in the winter is beyond me). We raised the possibility that the unit might profit by becoming attached to the Scientific Research Institute, although this has the disadvantage of taking the activity from under the control of the Office of the QM General, putting it directly under the Ministry of National Defense. A summary of the current set up and activities of the QMTI is the "Guidance of Quartermaster Testing Institute of ROKA, September 28, 1960."

We paid visits to three institutions where work in various aspects of nutrition was going on: (1) The Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of National Defense ("Status and Activities of the Department of Food and Nutrition, 1959"); (2) The National Chemistry Laboratories of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, ("Nutrition in Korea, October 1959" with its bibliography of all nutrition papers published from Korea since 1924) and (3) the Department of Biochemistry of the Medical College, Seoul National University (where for example some excellent work on individual amino acid contents of various foods was going on with two-directional paper chromatographic semiquantitative techniques). All of these institutions are housed in impressive permanent buildings, and without going into details, suffice it to say that the staffs of all three were impressive as was the quality of their work. If you will permit a personal comment, it has amazed me in my trip this fall and last fall to see the rapid growth of food quality nutrition work going on in Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Burma, and to hear from fellow Thailand team members of similar work in Indonesia and Malaya. They have an immense amount to share and to learn from one another (hence, the Saigon conference proposal).

A last comment is that the ROKA Surgeon General and his staff did not seem overly interested or concerned with nutrition problems within the services or the nation in general, and seemed to have very hazy ideas as to what they were seeing in the hospitals as far as nutritional disease and lesions are concerned.

Some of the people I met are listed below:

1. Brig. Gen. Hi Sup Chung, Surgeon General, ROKA
2. Brig. Gen. Su Hyun Yun, Quartermaster General, ROKA (entertained us at dinner)
3. Col. Kun Hyung Chang, Food Technologist, Office of the Quartermaster General, ROKA
4. Lt. Col. Kyung Hoo Kim, Vice-Director, Quartermaster Food Laboratory, Office of the Quartermaster General, ROKA.
5. Capt. Soon Hak Woo, Menu Planning Officer, Office of the Quartermaster General.
6. Brig. Gen. Ik Kwon Kim, Commanding Officer, Information School, Seoul (We visited the kitchen and mess of his unit.)

7. Col. So Kim, Chief of Staff, 29th Regiment, 30th Division, Seoul
(We visited the kitchen and mess of his unit.)
8. Lt. Col. Jung Soo Pak, Adjutant, 29th Regiment, 30th Division (We
visited the kitchen and mess of his unit.)
9. Brig. Gen. Hong Chong Lee, Director, The Scientific Research Institute,
Ministry of National Defense.
10. Mr. Tae Yung Lee, Chief of the Biochemistry Section, The Scientific
Research Institute.
11. Mr. TaiWon Park, Chief of the Chemistry Section, The Scientific Research
Institute.
12. Dr. Re Suk Chai, Acting Director, National Chemistry Laboratories,
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.
13. Dr. Ki Yung Lee, Professor of Biochemistry, Medical College, Seoul
National University.
14. Mr. Yoon Suk Koo, Director, Agricultural Products Inspection Office,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
15. Lt. Col. Merkl, MAP Programing Office, QM Branch, KMAG.
16. Col. McSherry, Chief, QM Branch, KMAG.
17. Col. Evans, Chief, Medical Branch, KMAG.
18. Lt. Col. Perlmutter, Preventive Medicine Officer, Medical Branch, KMAG.
19. Capt. Charles Everett Bowers, QM Branch, KMAG.
20. Major General Troxel, Chief, PROVMAAG-K.
21. Dr. Albert Pappano, Chief Economic Counselor, American Embassy.