



The Constitution of the Republic of Korea

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Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360
Stjórnámálamaðurinn
Askja 2-9, Örk 10

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THE VOICE OF KOREA

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A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
"Devoted to Freedom"
YONGJEUNG KIM, President
LEO C. SONG, Secretary-Treasurer

Cable address: "Koreafair"

The Voice of Korea endeavors to express the desires, ideals and objectives of the Korean people for mutual understanding among the nations, which creates friendship.

VOL. V, No. 112

AUGUST 14, 1948

Annual Subscription \$3.00

The Constitution: Does It Have A Chance?

The adoption of a Constitution for the new Republic of Korea arouses natural speculation as to the chance for success which a Government operating under this instrument will have. The Constitution itself, as the fundamental law of the land, appears to be essentially good; but it is in the enforcement of its provisions, both in letter and in spirit, by supplementary law, that the trend of the new Government will be determined. This responsibility—the law-making responsibility—remains with the National Assembly.

The document is not flawless. Although it contains 103 Articles and its language is more definitive than the language of the American Constitution, there are still loopholes by which an overly ambitious Chief Executive or an unscrupulous Assembly could destroy it almost at once. Several Articles which treat of basic civil rights are restricted by such phrases as "in accordance with the provisions of the law." Such a qualification invites the inference that the Constitution is to be subordinate to the general law.

It is hoped that the Assembly will not be reluctant to amend this Constitution, if, in the working, it proves unwieldy or ineffectual. The establishment of a unicameral legislature, for example, is a measure designed to see Korea through the early days of her independence, and need not be retained when the critical period has passed. The confusion and delay which might well result at this time from a two-chambered legislature justify the establishment of only one. But the time will come when balance is

needed within this branch of the Government—when the Assembly, with no checkrein upon it, might run away with powers beyond those reserved to it.

The danger of an uncontrolled Assembly is paralleled by the threat of a too-powerful Executive. The Constitution's provision that he be chosen by the National Assembly invites the hazard of an Assembly dominated by a forceful politico—one who could slide himself into the Presidency without opposition. The people of Korea should soon be given a direct hand in choosing their Government's head. Their political acuity has already been demonstrated at the polls.

The authority delegated to the Chief Executive is great enough to result in abuse if a personally ambitious man attains that office. Article 59, which grants the President the power to make war and peace, and Article 57, which provides that he may issue orders having the effect of law "in time of civil war, or in a dangerous situation arising from foreign relations, or in case of a natural calamity, or on account of a grave economic or financial crisis", are good provisions only in the hands of a good administrator.

There has already been one indication that the Assembly is not willing to concede the Chief Executive any courtesy authority not granted by the Constitution. President Syngman Rhee recently violated Article 69 by appointing Lee Yoon Yung as Prime Minister without seeking the consent of the Assembly. The Assembly promptly rejected the choice.

The National Assembly can be proud of its first great work. Its duty now is to safeguard the democratic spirit of this Constitution by writing a code of laws which will give it force.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

P R E A M B L E

We, the people of Korea, with a glorious tradition and history from time immemorial, following the indomitable spirit of independence, as manifested in the establishment of TAI HAN Republic in the course of the SAM-IL independence movement,

Now at this time engaged in reconstructing a democratic, independent country, are determined:

To consolidate national unity by justice, humanity, brotherly love and the elimination of all kinds of social evils,

To offer equal opportunities to every person,

To provide for the fullest development of the equality of each individual in all fields of political, economic, social and cultural life,

To permit every person to discharge his duties and responsibilities,

To promote the welfare of the people, to maintain permanent international peace, and thereby to assure Security, Liberty and Happiness of ourselves and our posterity,

Do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution on the 12th day of July in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight in the National Assembly composed of our freely and duly elected representatives.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1:

The Republic of Korea shall be a Democratic Republic.

Article 2:

The sovereignty of the Korean Republic shall reside in

the people as a whole. All state authority shall emanate from the people.

Article 3:

The requirements for Korean citizenship shall be determined by law.

Article 4:

The territory of the Republic of Korea shall consist of the Korean Peninsula, and its accessory islands.

Article 5:

The Republic of Korea shall guarantee liberty and equality and the initiative of each individual in the fields of political, social and economic life. It shall be responsible for their protection and adjustment for the promotion of the public welfare.

Article 6:

The Republic of Korea shall denounce all aggressive wars. The mission of the national military forces shall be to perform the sacred duty of protecting the national territory.

Article 7:

The duly ratified and published treaties and the generally recognized rules of international law shall be valid as a binding constituent part of the law of Korea. The status of aliens shall be guaranteed within the scope of international law and international treaties.

Chapter II Rights and Duties of Citizens

Article 8:

All citizens shall be equal before the law. No discrimination, in any field of political, economic and social life,

derived from sex, religion, or social position shall exist. Privileged status shall not be recognized, nor shall it ever be established in the future. The bestowment of badges, medals and other decorations shall confer to its bearer only personal honors and no privileged status shall be established.

Article 9:

All citizens shall have personal freedom and no citizen shall be arrested, detained, searched, tried, punished, or subject to compulsory labor unless according to law. No citizen shall be arrested, detained or searched except by warrant of a judge. In case a person is apprehended *flagrante delicto* or in case of danger that a person under suspicion may escape or destroy evidence, the detecting authority may ask for an *ex post facto* warrant of arrest in accordance with the provisions of law. The right to receive assistance from counsel and the right to request the court for examination of the legality of an apprehension shall be guaranteed.

Article 10:

All citizens shall be free from "limited residence", restrictions on domicile or restrictions on change of domicile, trespasses upon and the searching of private premises other than specified by law.

Article 11:

The privacy of correspondence of all citizens shall remain inviolate and shall not be interfered with except in accordance with law.

Article 12:

All citizens shall enjoy freedom of religion and conscience. No state religion shall exist. Religion shall be independent from politics.

Article 13:

Citizens shall not be subjected to any restrictions on the freedom of speech, press, assembly and association except as specified by law.

Article 14:

All citizens shall have freedom of science and art. Rights of authors, inventors, and artists, shall be protected by law.

Article 15:

The right of property shall be guaranteed. Its nature and restrictions shall be defined by law. The exercise of property rights shall conform to the public welfare. Expropriation, use or restriction of private property for public purposes shall be accompanied by due compensation in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 16:

All citizens shall be entitled to equal opportunity for education. At least elementary education shall be compulsory and free of charge. The educational system shall be determined by law and all educational institutions shall be placed under the supervision of the state.

Article 17:

All citizens shall have the right and duty to work. The standards of the conditions of labor shall be determined by law. Special protection shall be extended to the labor of women and children.

Article 18:

Freedom of association, collective bargaining and collective action of laborers shall be guaranteed within the limits of the law. Workers employed in profit making private enterprises shall be entitled to share in the profits of such enterprises in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 19:

Citizens who are incapable of making a living because of old age, infirmity or incapacity to work shall be entitled to protection by the state in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 20:

Marriages shall be based on the equality of men and women. The purity of marriage and the health of the family shall receive the special protection by the state.

Article 21:

All citizens shall have the right to submit written petitions to each government agency and the government shall be obliged to examine such petitions.

Article 22:

All citizens shall have the right to be tried in accordance with the law by judges whose status has been determined by law.

Article 23:

No citizen shall be prosecuted for a criminal act unless such act constituted a crime prescribed by law at the time

at which it was committed nor shall he be placed in double jeopardy.

Article 24:

All defendants in criminal cases shall have the right to be tried in public without delay unless there is proper reason for not doing so. When a defendant in a criminal case who has been detained is found not guilty he may in accordance with the provisions of law request compensation from the government.

Article 25:

All citizens shall have the right to elect government officials in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 26:

All citizens shall have the right to assume public office in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 27:

Public officials shall be the trustees of the sovereign people and shall at all times be responsible to the people. All citizens shall have the right to petition for the removal of public officials who acted unlawfully. Citizens who suffered damages by unlawful acts of public officials in the exercise of their official duties may request compensation from the government or the public corporate bodies concerned, provided that the civil or criminal liability of the public officials concerned shall not be exempted thereby.

Article 28:

Liberties and rights of the people shall not be ignored for the reason that they are not enumerated in this Constitution. A law imposing restrictions upon the liberties and rights of citizens shall be enacted only where such law is deemed necessary for the maintenance of public order and welfare of the community.

Article 29:

All citizens shall have the duty to pay taxes in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 30:

All citizens have the duty to defend the national territory in accordance with the provisions of law.

Chapter III National Assembly

Article 31:

The legislative power shall be exercised by the National Assembly.

Article 32:

The National Assembly shall be composed of members elected by universal, direct, equal and secret votes.

The details for the election of the members of the National Assembly shall be determined by law.

Article 33:

The term of the members of the National Assembly shall be four years.

Article 34:

The National Assembly shall convene each year on the twentieth day of December. Should that day fall on a public holiday, the National Assembly shall assemble on the following day.

Article 35:

In case of an extraordinary necessity the Speaker of the National Assembly shall summon a special session of the National Assembly upon the request of the President or upon the request or not less than one-fourth of the members of the National Assembly. The National Assembly shall convene immediately if there should arise a cause requiring the election of the President or Vice President during a recess of the National Assembly.

Article 36:

The National Assembly shall elect its Speaker and two Vice-speakers.

Article 37:

Unless otherwise provided in this Constitution or the rules of the National Assembly attendance of a majority of the members duly qualified and seated and the vote of a majority of the members present shall be necessary for acts of the National Assembly. The Speaker shall have the right to participate in voting and to break a tie vote.

Article 38:

The proceedings of the National Assembly shall be open to the public but a closed session may be held by a resolution of the National Assembly.

Article 39:

Bills may be introduced by the members of the National Assembly or the government.

Article 40:

Bills passed by the National Assembly shall be sent to the government and the President shall, within 15 days, promulgate the law. In case of objection the President

shall return the bill to the National Assembly for reconsideration with a statement of the reasons of his objections. If, in the presence of two-thirds of the members duly elected and seated the bill is confirmed on reconsideration by two-thirds of the members present, such bill shall be determined to be a law. If a bill is not returned within fifteen days after it has been presented to the government, the same shall become law. The President shall have the duty to proclaim without delay a law which has been determined under the foregoing paragraph. A law shall be effective twenty days after the date of proclamation unless otherwise stipulated.

Article 41:

The National Assembly shall consider and decide upon budgets.

Article 42:

The National Assembly shall have the right to consent to treaties concerning international organizations, peace treaties, treaties pertaining to mutual aid, commercial treaties, treaties financially incumbent on the state or the people, treaties related to legislative affairs, and declare war against a foreign state.

Article 43:

The National Assembly shall demand, if necessary, documents, subpoena witnesses and receive testimonies or opinions for purposes of supervision and inspection.

Article 44:

The Prime Minister, ministers and their representatives shall be authorized to attend, state their opinion, and answer questions at the meetings of the National Assembly. Whenever requested by the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, ministers and their representatives are obliged to attend a meeting of the National Assembly and to answer questions.

Article 45:

The National Assembly shall investigate the qualifications of its members, establish its own rules of procedure and decide on disciplinary punishment of its members. The concurrence of two-thirds of the members duly qualified and seated shall be necessary for the expulsion of a member of the National Assembly.

Article 46:

In the event the President, Vice President, ministers, the Head of the Board of Audit, judges and other public officials as determined by law violate in the exercise of their official duties provisions of this Constitution or other laws the National Assembly may resolve to impeach them. A motion for impeachment shall be signed by no less than 50 members of the National Assembly. Attendance of two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly duly elected and seated and the vote of two-thirds or more of the members present shall be necessary to institute impeachment.

Article 47:

An Impeachment Court shall be established by law for the purpose of hearing impeachment cases. The Impeachment Court shall be presided over by the Vice President and five justices of the Supreme Court and five members of the National Assembly shall serve as associates judges. When the President or Vice President is tried the Chief Justice shall preside. The concurrence of two-thirds of the judges is required for impeachment. A judgment in case of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office; but the party convicted shall not be exempted from civil or criminal responsibility.

Article 48:

No member of the National Assembly can be a member of any provincial council.

Article 49:

When the National Assembly is in session no member of the National Assembly shall be arrested or detained without the consent of the National Assembly except when apprehended *flagrante delicto*. In case the apprehension of a member has been made before the convocation of the National Assembly, such member shall be released during the session in case the National Assembly so requests.

Article 50:

No member of the National Assembly shall be held responsible to anyone outside of the Assembly for any statement or vote occurring within the Assembly.

Chapter IV Government
SECTION I—PRESIDENT

Article 51:

The President of the Republic shall be the head of the executive branch of the government and shall represent the Republic vis-a-vis foreign powers.

Article 52:

In case the President is unable to execute his office for any reason, the Vice President shall act for him and in case both the President and Vice President are unable to perform their duties, the Prime Minister shall act for the President.

Article 53:

The President and Vice President shall be elected by the National Assembly by secret ballot. The election of the President and Vice President shall be determined by the concurring vote of two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly in the presence of two-thirds of the members duly elected and seated. In case no candidate receives two-thirds of the votes a second ballot shall be taken. In case no candidate receives two-thirds of the votes in the second ballot a run-off balloting shall be conducted between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes and the candidates who received the plurality of the votes in the run-off balloting shall be elected.

Article 54:

Before the President assumes his office he shall take the following oath:

I do solemnly swear before the nation that I shall observe the Constitution, promote the welfare of the people, defend the state and shall faithfully execute the office of President.

Article 55:

The President and Vice President shall hold office for four years. Consecutive re-election shall be permissible for one time only. The term of office of the Vice President shall begin and end simultaneously with that of the President.

Article 56:

The election for the President and Vice President shall be held not later than 30 days before the expiration of the term of the preceding President and Vice President. The vacancy of the President or Vice President shall be filled without delay by election in the National Assembly.

Article 57:

When in time of civil war, or in a dangerous situation arising from foreign relations, or in case of a natural calamity, or on account of a grave economic or financial crisis it is necessary to take urgent measures for the maintenance of public order and security, the President shall have the right to issue orders having the effect of law or to make necessary financial dispositions, provided, however, that the President shall exercise such powers exclusively if time is lacking for the convocation of the National Assembly.

Such orders or dispositions shall be reported without delay to the National Assembly for confirmation. If confirmation of the National Assembly is not obtained, such orders or dispositions shall lose their effect thereupon, and the President shall announce it without delay.

Article 58:

The President may issue orders within the framework of the powers delegated to him and orders necessary for the enforcement of laws.

Article 59:

The President shall conclude and ratify treaties, declare war, make peace, and receive and accredit diplomatic representatives of foreign countries.

Article 60:

The President may address the National Assembly or express his opinion on important national affairs by written messages.

Article 61:

The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the National Military Force:

The organization and formation of the National Military Force shall be determined by law.

Article 62:

The President shall appoint and remove government officials in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Article 63:

The President shall have the power to grant pardons, mitigation of punishment and restoration of rights, in accordance with the provisions of law.

The granting of an amnesty shall require the consent of the National Assembly.

Article 64:

The President shall proclaim a state of siege in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 65:

The President shall confer decorations and extend other honors or awards.

Article 66:

The acts of the President pertaining to state affairs shall be executed in written documents and all such documents shall be countersigned by the Prime Minister and the minister concerned.

The foregoing paragraph applies equally to acts of the President pertaining to military affairs.

Article 67:

The President shall not be charged with criminal offense during his tenure of office except in case of treason.

SECTION II—STATE COUNCIL

Article 68:

The State Council shall act as a collegiate body. It shall be composed of the President, the Prime Minister and other ministers and shall decide on important national policies which come within the scope of the powers of the President.

Article 69:

The President shall appoint the Prime Minister with the consent of the National Assembly. When the National Assembly convenes after a general election the appointment of the Prime Minister shall be confirmed by the National Assembly. The ministers shall be appointed by the President. The total number of ministers shall not be more than 15 and not less than 8. No military personnel shall be appointed Prime Minister or minister unless he has resigned from active service.

Article 70:

The meetings of the State Council shall be presided over by the President.

The Prime Minister shall assist the President and shall be the vice-chairman of the State Council.

Article 71:

The decisions in the meetings of the State Council shall be by majority vote. The President shall have the right to vote and to break a tie vote.

Article 72:

The following matters shall be referred to the State Council for decision:

1. Fundamental plans and policies concerning national affairs;
2. Proposed treaties, declaration of war, conclusion of peace, and other important foreign policy;
3. Proposed amendments to the Constitution, bills and orders of the President;
4. Proposed budgets, reports to the Board of Audit, urgent financial dispositions, and the defrayment of the reserve fund;
5. Matters pertaining to the request of convening the National Assembly for an extraordinary session;
6. Proposed proclamation and termination of a state of siege;
7. Important military affairs;
8. Conferment of honors and grant of pardon, mitigation of punishment or restoration of rights;
9. Matters referring to the liaison between departments of the Executive Branch and determination of their jurisdiction;
10. Examination of petitions submitted or referred to the government;
11. Appointment and removal of justices of the Supreme Court, Procurator General, the Head of the Board of Audit, the President of the National University, Ambassadors, ministers, the highest ranking officer of the National Military Force, the Chief of Staff and other public officials and the managers of important national enterprises designated by law;
12. Establishment and operation of important policies of the various branches of the Executive Branch of the government;
13. And other matters presented by the Prime Minister or the ministers.

SECTION III—EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Article 73:

The heads of the departments of the Executive Branch shall be appointed by the President from among the ministers.

The Prime Minister shall, under the orders of the President, control and supervise the heads of the departments; he shall take charge of administrative affairs not assigned to any particular department.

Article 74:

The Prime Minister and the head of each executive department may, by virtue of their implied authority or by

special delegation, issue "Orders of the Prime Ministers" or Department Orders respectively, concerning affairs in their agencies.

Article 75:

The organization and function of each department of the Executive Branch shall be determined by law.

Chapter V Courts

Article 76:

The judicial power shall be vested in the courts composed of judges. The organization of the Supreme Court and the lower courts shall be determined by law. The qualification of judges shall be determined by law.

Article 77:

The judges of the court shall judge independently in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

Article 78:

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the National Assembly.

Article 79:

The tenure of the judges shall be ten years and the judges may be reappointed in accordance with the law.

Article 80:

Judges shall not be dismissed, suspended from office or have their salaries reduced except by impeachment or criminal or disciplinary punishment.

Article 81:

The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to decide finally whether administrative orders and regulations, and dispositions, are consistent with the Constitution and the law.

Whenever the decision of the case depends on the determination of the constitutionality of a law, the Court shall proceed in accordance with the decision of the Constitution Committee. The Vice President shall be the Chairman of the Constitution Committee and five justices of the Supreme Court and five members of the National Assembly shall serve as members of the Constitution Committee. A decision holding that a law is unconstitutional requires a two-thirds majority of the Constitution Committee. The organization and the rules of procedure of the Constitution Committee shall be determined by law.

Article 82:

The Supreme Court may establish internal regulations of the court and rules pertaining to routine matters.

Article 83:

The trial and the announcement of judgment shall be open to the public but may be closed to the public by a decision of the court when it is considered to disturb public peace and order or to be dangerous to public morals.

Chapter VI Economy

Article 84:

The principle of the economic order of the Republic of Korea shall be to realize social justice, to meet the basic demands of all citizens and to encourage the development of a balanced economy.

Within the limits of the foregoing paragraph the economic freedom of each individual shall be guaranteed.

Article 85:

Mines and other important mineral resources, marine resources, water power and natural powers which may be utilized economically shall be owned by the State. In order to utilize and develop such resources, licenses shall, in case of public necessity, be granted for a limited period to private persons in accordance with the provisions of the law and shall be cancelled in accordance with the provisions of law.

Article 86:

Farmland shall be distributed to self-tilling farmers. The method of distribution, the extent of possession, and the nature and restrictions of ownership shall be determined by law.

Article 87:

Important transportation and communication enterprises, financial and insurance institutions, electricity, irrigation, water supply, gas and any enterprises having public character, shall be managed by the government or by juridical persons of public law. When required by public necessity such enterprises shall be licensed to private individuals in accordance with the provisions of law and licenses shall be cancelled in accordance with the provisions of law.

Foreign trade shall be under the control of the government.

Article 88:

In order to meet urgent necessities of national defense or national life private enterprises shall be transferred to state or public ownership, or their management shall be placed under control or supervision of the state or juridical persons of public law, when it is deemed urgently necessary in accordance with provisions of law.

Article 89:

Art. 15, par. 2 of this Constitution shall be applicable to the cancellation of a license, the expropriation, use or restriction of property as provided in Art. 85-88.

Chapter VII Finance

Article 90:

The items and rates of all taxes shall be determined by law.

Article 91:

The Government shall submit to the National Assembly at the beginning of each annual meeting for decision a budget covering all revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. In case a special disbursement covers a period of more than one year, such disbursement shall be established by the National Assembly as a continual fund.

The National Assembly shall neither increase items of expenditure, nor establish new items of expenditure without the concurrence of the government.

Article 92:

The raising of a national loan or the conclusion of any contract incumbent upon the National Treasury outside the national budget shall be subject to a decision of the National Assembly.

Article 93:

The creation of a reserve fund for unforeseen expenditures outside of the budget, or for any disbursement in excess of the budget, shall be decided by the National Assembly in advance; the disbursement of the reserve fund shall be confirmed by the subsequent session of the National Assembly.

Article 94:

The National Assembly shall enact the annual budget before the beginning of the fiscal year. In case the budget cannot be enacted in time on account of unavoidable reasons, the National Assembly shall establish a temporary budget for a period not exceeding the first month of the fiscal year and the regular budget shall be enacted within this period.

Article 95:

The counts of revenue and disbursement of the state shall be investigated annually by the Board of Audit.

The Government shall submit to the National Assembly, in session the following year, a statement of accounts together with the auditing report of the Board of Audit.

The organization and functions of the Board of Audit shall be determined by law.

Chapter VIII Local Autonomous Organizations

Article 96:

Local autonomous organizations shall manage their

property and perform their administration within the framework of laws and orders and shall perform such additional tasks as are delegated to them by law.

Local autonomous organizations may establish self-governing regulations within the framework of laws and orders.

Article 97:

The organization and operation of local autonomous organizations shall be determined by law. There shall be a Board or Council set up, in each local autonomous organization.

The organization and authority of the local councils and the election of its members shall be determined by law.

Chapter IX Amendment to the Constitution

Article 98:

A motion to amend the Constitution shall be introduced either by the President or by one-third or more of the members of the National Assembly duly elected and seated. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be announced by the President to the public. The period for an announcement as prescribed in the foregoing paragraph shall not be less than 30 days.

The decision on the amendment to the Constitution requires the concurrence of more than two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly duly elected and seated.

When an amendment to the Constitution has been adopted the President shall promulgate it immediately.

Chapter X Supplementary Rules

Article 99:

This Constitution shall be in effect from the date of its promulgation so declared by the Speaker of the National Assembly which enacted this Constitution. However, those provisions which can be made effective only after the enactment of supplementary laws shall become effective from the date at which such a supplementary law becomes effective.

Article 100:

Existing laws and ordinances shall be in effect to the extent that they do not conflict with this Constitution.

Article 101:

The National Assembly which enacted the Constitution may establish a special law dealing with the punishment of malicious anti-national acts committed prior to 15 August, 1945.

Article 102:

The National Assembly which enacted this Constitution shall exercise the powers of the National Assembly as prescribed in this Constitution; the terms of its members shall be two years from the date of the convocation of of the National Assembly.

Article 103:

Government officials who are holding positions at the effective date of this Constitution shall continue their duties until such time as their successors shall be elected or appointed according to this Constitution.

THE FLAG OF KOREA

The symbol emblazoned on the Korean national flag is a key to much of the thought, philosophy and mysticism of the Orient. This symbol, called the "Tai Guk," is a circle divided equally and locked in perfect balance. The upper red section is the "yang"; the lower blue section is the "yin." These two opposites express the dualism of the universe—heaven and earth, fire and water, heat and cold, light and dark, night and day, summer and winter, pain and joy, active and passive, construction and destruction. Asked to explain the Tai Guk, one Korean, unconsciously speaking in blank verse, said:

"From the Unknown comes the Everlasting;
From the Everlasting comes the Everchanging.
The symbol, Tai Guk, means Infinity."

The four trigrams surrounding the Tai Guk also carry the idea of opposites and of balance. The three unbroken lines of the upper left stand for heaven; opposite is the trigram representing earth, three broken lines. At the upper right-hand corner are two solid lines with a broken line between, symbolizing fire. Opposite are two broken lines flanking a solid line, the symbol of water. These

four trigrams bring out the truth that where water and heat meet, vegetation abounds and civilization develops.

The philosophy of the Tai Guk stems from the Confucian "Book of Changes," and its central thought seems to be that, while there is constant movement within the sphere of infinity, there is also balance and harmony. The depth to which this philosophy has permeated Korean thought is exemplified in the recent work of a Korean poet, Mirror Kim, who woke one night to write a verse in Chinese characters expressing the yang-and-yin thought. His English version reads:

REASONING

The circling of the One Truth brings forth all things:
Flowers bloom and fall—it makes my thought endless.
Lambs bleat, wolves howl, but the mountains stand still;
Fish glide, dragons sink, yet the waters flow placidly.

The bright moon is sweet on the night of singing or of wailing;

Whether the day is one of birth or of death, the blue sky says nothing.

The yin and yang beget alternately a different world;
The old and the new move endlessly in the sphere of life.

SOUTH KOREA NEWS DIGEST

LEPER VILLAGES

Two new villages for lepers, one at Yong Chun near Taegu and one at Chungju, Chungchong Pukto, have been established by the Department of Public Health and Welfare in its overall effort to wipe out leprosy in south Korea. Each of the villages has a dispensary for modern medical treatment of the disease. Their opening brought the total of leper villages in south Korea to seven.

Arrangements are nearly complete for the restoration of Yosu and Taegu Leprosaria to the Presbyterian Mission. During the war, these two private institutions were directed by the Japanese. At the war's end, the Military Government assumed temporary responsibility for their operation.

The conversion of the Pusan Leprosarium from a provincial to a national institution will soon be accomplished, according to the Civil Administrator. This will give south Korea two national leprosaria, the other being located in Sorokto.

Claims For German-Held Korean Lands

Koreans who are rightful owners of confiscated property located in the American zone of Germany are permitted to file claim for restitution. Military Government Law 59, Germany, provides for the restitution of identifiable property wrongfully seized from the owners during the period from January 30, 1933 to May 8, 1945. Categorized as wrongful seizure are all properties taken for reasons of race, religion, nationality, ideology and political oppositon to national socialism. The law does not apply to property in the American sector of Berlin.

Property Taxes Skyrocket

Taxes on land and houses will be five times as much this year as they were last, and owners of forest areas will be billed for ten times last year's rate, according to a recent announcement by the Department of Finance. The only redeeming feature of the new land tax measure is that it abolishes the KAA fee and provides for uniform levying on the basis of the amount of land owned.

WOMEN IN MODERN KOREA

The old concept that woman's place is in the home is gradually giving way under the increasing influence of the West in Korean life. Educational opportunities have expanded, and many Korean women are seeking higher learning in universities at home and abroad. They are active in the professions and in politics, as well as in the arts, and the importance of the role they play in the new Korean society is recognized by those Koreans who are the leaders in the movement to build Korea into a modern nation.

Despite the fact that they are still bound by the Three Obediences—to father, to husband and to eldest son if he is head of the family, Korean women manage to make themselves heard. The South Korea Interim Government established a Women's Bureau of the Department of Public Health and Welfare in 1946, the functions and duties of which are to advise the Military Governor on policies affecting the social, economic, political and cultural amelioration of Korean women; and to formulate standards and policies pertaining to the promotion of the welfare and interests of Korean women, such as improvement of working conditions, advancement of work opportunities, suffrage, control and elimination of prostitution, institutional care, and health.

A daily newspaper and a monthly magazine are edited and published by women for women. The

Grain Collection Spurred

Incentive goods will be offered to farmers at prevailing legal prices in an effort to foster the summer grain collection program. The National Consumer Goods Office has allocated a total of 282 million *won* in commodities for this purpose, and will set aside another 500 million *won* in goods as soon as they become available. The incentive items include both Korean-made goods and those received through the civilian supply program, and consist largely of cotton cloth, underwear, rubber shoes, leather shoes, hemp cloth, soap and matches. A farmer who delivers his entire grain quota will be eligible to purchase 500 *won* of these consumer goods. If his grain quota exceeds one *suk*, he may purchase goods valued at 500 *won* for each additional *suk*, but may not purchase a total of more than 2,000 *won* of goods.

Korean History Text

"A Short History of Korea," written by students at the American Language Institute, will soon be submitted in first draft to the Department of Education. The book contains 150 pages of an introduction to Korea for 25 American educators who will soon arrive in Korea to conduct a teacher training school at Seoul National University. Prepared by a special class of interpreters under training at the Language Institute, the new publication offers an impartial discussion of politics, economy, education, customs, culture, history and geography of Korea. It is the first of a series of books for use in circulating libraries.

Constabulary Nurses Corps

A Korean Constabulary Nursing Corps was established last month, to comprise approximately 100 nurses with commissions as reserve officers in the Department of Internal Security. The nurses will serve in two Constabulary evacuation hospitals, on a hospital train and with the Coast Guard. Candidates for the training course will undergo a three year student training period in the Constabulary hospitals.

Federation of Women's Clubs, a non-political organization, has more than four million members. There were four women members of the South Korean Interim Legislature, although none were elected to the new Assembly. Women are at the head of the Nursing Affairs Section and the Women's Section of the National Police. In south Korea there are 420 women police, and 1,083 licensed nurses. In the teaching profession, a woman is president of the Ewha Women's University, which has a faculty of over 100 and a student body of over 1,600. A woman is superintendent of the Nursing School of Seoul National University. There are several women principals of public high schools throughout the southern provinces. And, since liberation, women have been among the delegates sent to represent Korea in India, Sweden, China and the United States.

The United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea indirectly played a part in shattering the old tradition of women's restricted place. The entertainment committee, planning a party in the Commission's honor, suggested that Korean women of standing act as hostesses in place of "keesang" (similar to the Japanese "geisha"). For the first time in public gathering, grown daughters and young wives of Korean leaders mingled socially with men, not only of their own race, but foreign men from across the sea.