

large number of villagers in south-western Korea were tried by court martial and executed, the Commission reported that three ministers had resigned, from the Government and that the military officers immediately involved had been relieved of their commands and brought to trial which, it was reported, was still proceeding. There had also been further arrests in that connexion.

As regards conditions in North Korea, the report stated that its information had been drawn from captured official documents, statements of refugees and the Korean Central Year Book, published in February 1950. Another source had been the testimony of persons from all walks of life who had been interviewed by a committee of the Commission. That committee had reported that the persons whom it had interviewed stated that there was no real freedom of the Press, speech or association in North Korea, and that there was official discrimination against those holding religious beliefs and, in some cases, active persecution of Christians. A group of Korean expatriates, described as "Soviet Koreans", who had returned from China and the USSR in 1945, were believed dominant in North Korea today. This group, it was said, included Kim Il Sung, said to be a young Soviet Army Officer who had assumed the name of a famous Korean patriot.

Quoting a description of elections in North Korea by persons who had participated in them, the report stated that the rule was that for each post there should be one candidate named by the leaders of the North Korean Labour (Communist) party for the Democratic Front, and voters, who were convinced that they were being watched, could only signify whether they voted for or against the candidate. The ballot was not secret and voting was, in practice, compulsory.

In a section dealing with economic and social conditions in South Korea, the Commission reported that a large proportion of the country's industrial facilities had been destroyed and that, in the area untouched by war, the Taegu-Masan-Pusan area, they were limited by shortages of electricity and raw materials. On the other hand, it was reported, agriculture had suffered comparatively little damage. The Commission felt that strong government action was needed to check inflation, the magnitude of which was stated to be alarming.

The Commission stated, among other things, that certain basic facts would have to be considered whenever, after the end of hostilities, a political settlement was sought, in order to achieve

the objectives of the United Nations in Korea by peaceful means. Irrespective of whether a political settlement between North and South, making possible the unification of the country as a democratic nation, was a question for the present or the future, the political objective of the United Nations must remain the establishment of a unified, independent and democratic Korea. In the meantime, it was stated, security against continued or renewed aggression must be assured to the Republic of Korea, and support and assistance must be given toward its democratic development and the rebuilding of its economy.

The Commission reported that the primary mission of the United Nations Civil Assistance Command, Korea (UNCACK) was to prevent disease, starvation and unrest among the civilian population in Korea. In April 1951 UNCACK also assumed the additional function of assisting in the short-term economic rehabilitation of the Republic of Korea.

The outstanding achievement of the UNCACK, the report stated, was the prevention of epidemics and disease in the hot summers of 1950 and 1951 and in the extreme cold of the 1950-51 winter; 70 per cent of the population in South Korea had been inoculated against smallpox, typhoid and typhus, and, by 1 August 1951, nearly 12,500,000 refugees and other civilians had been dusted with DDT to prevent typhus. A programme of control of cholera by immunizing the civilian population of port cities was almost completed.

The report stated that besides civilian specialists employed by UNCACK and those recruited by the United Nations Command, specialists were made available by the Secretary-General, several specialized agencies and the League of Red Cross Societies. WHO and IRO furnished 35 health and welfare officers and sanitary engineers; ILO two advisers to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

5. Relief and Rehabilitation of Korea³⁴

a. CONSIDERATION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 323(XI), the Secretary-General submitted to the Council at its twelfth session a progress report (E/1913) and a supplementary report (E/1913/Add.1) on assistance rendered to the Unified Command in providing relief to the civilian population in Korea, covering the

³⁴ For steps taken in connexion with Korean relief and rehabilitation in 1950, see Y.U.N., 1950, pp. 266-83.