Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 11, 1949

SUBJECT: Korea: Military Assistance and Related Matters

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Pyung Ok Chough, Special Representative of the President of Korea. Dr. John H. Chang, Ambassador of Korea The Secretary Mr. Miles W. Bond, Assistant Chief, Division of Northeast Asian Affairs

COPIES TO: S A/PA PE Department of the Army (Plan and Operations) Ambassador Ruscio, Seoul

Dr. Chough called on me by appointment this afternoon accompanied by Ambassador Chang.

He stated at the outset that he wished to express to me, personally and on behalf of his President, appreciation for the assistance which had been extended to Korea by the United States, and in particular for the strong advocacy of the Korean cause which had been evidenced by recent official statements made in support of the pending Korean Aid Bill.

Dr. Chough then stated that he had been instructed by President Rhee to raise three points with me. In the first place, he stated that the Korean government and people had been disturbed by the recent withdrawal of United States occupation forces because of what they regarded as the inadequacy of existing Korean security forces. He said that, although this concern had been somewhat alleviated by recent expressions of United States support, it continued to be the view of his government that the effective strength of the Korean Army (e.g., the size of the force to be equipped and supplied by the United States) should be raised from the present figure of 65,000 to 100,000, with an additional reserve of 80,000. He added that he had discussed this matter with General Wedemeyer and that the latter, although originally in favor of the 65,000
The third point raised by Dr. Gough was the question of the possibility of the United States' underwriting a Pacific Pact analogous to the North Atlantic Pact. I pointed out in reply that my views on this subject had been set forth on more than one occasion during recent press conferences, and that, in brief, the United States did not at this time contemplate any further extension of the undertakings embodied in the North Atlantic Pact.