

October 2, 1953

**Associated Press Report, Syngman Rhee Statement
on Chinese Occupying North Korea**

Citation:

"Associated Press Report, Syngman Rhee Statement on Chinese Occupying North Korea", October 2, 1953, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-016-043, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University. <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/123011>

Summary:

President Syngman Rhee states he is ready to "reopen the war against Chinese reds occupying North Korea" and if necessary, he will go ahead without American support.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



ASSOCIATED PRESS 1825 K.S.D.

AP 28 by Reiman Morion, Seoul, 10/2

President Syngman Rhee said today he is to reopen the war against Chinese reds occupying north Korea and he warned that if necessary he will go ahead without American support.

"I am not bluffing" he said.

The President of the Republic of Korea made the statement in an interview with the correspondent.

Except in general terms naturally he did not specify when he will order his armies to attack but he said: "time running out. We shall have to act soon or perish."

In both manner and speech Rhee gave every indication that for he said not repeat several times: "I am not bluffing. I cannot bluff."

He criticized American policies "mistaken" in discussing peace with the Chinese and said: "unification through a political conference is ridiculous."

The President gave those reasons for the position he is taking:

Firstly he convinced that the Chinese will open the war whenever they are ready. "They have not given up their ambition for the whole of Korea. They will attack again."

He believe that the present armistice like the talks in 1951 is merely to time for the ~~anti~~ military build-up.

Third the buildup is in progress, he said. "This communist army has new weapons from the Soviet including a strong air arm and many grant tanks."

Four; Even ~~in~~ if the Chinese do not attack in the near future—which he does not assume—he said a divided Korea cannot live.

He was speaking from a point of view of food industry and general economics.

conveys



Therefore, he said "we must strike first. It is not war of aggression to liberate a part of our soil. We and only what is our own."

Does he have and

That a south Korean attack on the Chinese might (do) touch off the third World War? Who grimly and asked:

"If Russia was not ready to start the third World War when we went to the Yalu river in 1950, why should it start now?" If the President conceded that from a standpoint of supplies and materials the south Korean army would have "a hard time". He said he "hoped" that the very least he expected was support in the for armaments greoline etc.

"If the United Nations will simply looks us up with that our men will do the fighting." He said he was sure that ROK forces could clear north Korea of the Chinese."

A ctually most competent American military observers in Korea do not believe the ROKs could press an offensive very long without both supplies and air cover from ehe" Nevertheless, ~~he~~ Rhee said he ~~is~~ will "go it alone" whatever or not such assistance is forthcoming.