



**Princeton Diplomatic Invitational**  
**February 9-11, 2018**

**Provisional People's Committee for North Korea**  
**Aaron Sobel, Chair**

# Provisional People's Committee for North Korea PDI 2018

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**LETTER FROM THE CONFERENCE DIRECTOR**

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Delegates,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the first iteration of the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational! I hope that each and every one of you will walk away from our conference having enjoyed the debates you will have and the people you will meet.

Allow me to tell you the story of how we got here. For years, Princeton has hosted the Princeton International Crisis Simulation - better known as PICSim - which brought innovative approaches, like a conference-wide Joint Crisis Committee, to the college Model UN circuit. However, the past two years brought with them an unfortunate decline in the quality of PICSim.

We sought to change that. The decision to rebrand ourselves as the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational was one to begin a new era for Princeton's college conference. The changes were greater than just a new name; rather, we brought about a new conference schedule, a smaller Secretariat, improved communication with delegations, and, true to the original iteration of PICSim, a six-way Joint Crisis Committee that promises to be better staffed than ever before.

Here's to the first Princeton Diplomatic Invitational. Let us make it memorable.

Sincerely yours,

Elkhyn R. Rivas Rodriguez,

Director, Princeton Diplomatic Invitational I

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### **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

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Dearest delegates,

Welcome to the Princeton Diplomatic Invitational! I'm Aaron Sobel and I've split my time between Fairfax, VA and Manila, Philippines. I'm a junior in the Woodrow Wilson school, which will hopefully teach me what I need to know to go into law. I'll probably be running the committee concurrently with studying for the LSAT, to be honest. On campus, I'm involved with Mock Trial (surprise, surprise!), I'm a peer representative on the Honor Committee, and I've been on the Model UN team, staffing conferences and competing for three years now.

I'm going to be real with you. Our committee is objectively the most important. This means that my expectations are high. You should be well-read, prepared and certainly determined to bring prosperity to the one true Korea. I will tolerate only moderate amounts of backstabbing, hunger for individual power, and assassination attempts, unavoidable as they may be, because I want you to focus on our committee-wide goal: a world under the command of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I can't wait to see what you will come up with. If you need to contact me, shoot me an e-mail at [axsobel@princeton.edu](mailto:axsobel@princeton.edu). Looking forward to February 9th!

Yours,

Aaron Sobel,

Chair, Provisional People's Committee for North Korea

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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### **The Beginnings of the Cold War**

The Second World War in Asia was brought to a dramatic end in August 1945 with the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet invasion of Japanese-controlled Manchuria, and finally the surrender of Japan. However, while the allies had, at least in theory, agreed to the post-war situation in Asia, it quickly became apparent in the three years following the end of the war that they had differing goals for Asia's geopolitical organization.

The aftermath of the war and the story of the changes in the relationships between the victors is complex and multifaceted. However, it is clear that the period saw increasing distrust between the United States and the Soviet Union. The Allies had agreed in a series of conferences on many of the aspects of the post-war peace, including such lasting arrangements as the United Nations. From these conferences, it seemed to the Americans that the Soviets would allow free and fair elections to take place in Eastern Europe. However, as Soviet forces continued their occupation of Eastern Europe and began a series of rigged elections that brought Communist governments to power, the American government became convinced that the Soviets sought to establish their power more broadly and beyond their own borders. During this time, the United States took steps to ensure the democratic and pro-American alignment of governments in Europe that were occupied by American, British, and French forces. It was clear to the Soviets that the Americans and their allies were willing to take whatever steps necessary to secure friendly governments in the areas they occupied. The culmination of this was the declaration of the Truman Doctrine in the spring of 1947. In this famous speech to Congress, Truman asked for \$400 million dollars to support the governments of Greece and Turkey, asserting the country's support of all "free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures," thus effectively announcing the United States' intent to support governments against communist forces.

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This was followed up with the announcement of the Marshall Plan in June of 1948 to rebuild the economies of Europe. The theory among American policymakers was that a strong economic recovery would decrease support for communist parties in the Western European countries, especially France and Italy. Fearing a loss of influence if Eastern Bloc countries accepted this aid, Stalin prevented them from participating in the plan. When the Western allies continued to go ahead with the economic normalization and political organization of West Germany, Stalin responded by consolidating control over East Germany. At the end of June 1948, when the Western allies intended to introduce a new Deutsch Mark, Stalin began the Berlin Blockade. The allies responded by launching the Berlin Airlift, and in July of 1948 it became clear that the geopolitical situation had changed from that of allies to that of rivals and adversaries.

While the events in Europe influenced and essentially defined the relationship between the two countries and their strategic perception of each other, events in East Asia continued apace. In the immediate aftermath of the war, American forces occupied Japan, the southern half of Korea, and the Philippines, and Soviet forces occupied Manchuria and the northern half of Korea. American Marines were also sent to assist in the handover of major ports by the Japanese, to ensure the handover went to the Nationalist government of the KMT rather than to the Communists. In the same manner, British and French troops were moved rapidly in Southeast Asia to Indochina, Malaya, and the East Indies to ensure that the handover of authority by the Japanese forces were to colonial authorities rather than to nationalists or communists. Thus, in the immediate aftermath of the war, it seemed that the Americans and their allies had been able to seize much of the strategic high ground.

Despite these advantages in the post-war strategic positions, the initial actions in 1945-1946 did not lead to outright conflict. The Nationalists and Communist reached an accord of sorts with the Double Tenth Agreement and the Chongqing conference, and the Soviets and Americans attempted to come to an understanding on the status of Korea with the Soviet-American Commission. At the

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same time, the American forces consolidated their occupation of Japan. These ongoing events led to a lull in tensions in East Asia.

However, things soon took a more interesting turn: the Communists in China had secured wide support among the populace and the Nationalist had borne the brunt of the war, anti-colonial movements in Southeast Asia gained momentum, the Soviets were able to transfer resources and equipment to the Communists in Manchuria, and the government set up in northern Korea was quite successful in consolidating power. In southern Korea, American attempts to set up a government were met with popular resistance and lacked legitimacy. This set the stage for further advances of the Communists, as post-war attempts to reach a negotiated settlement failed and the Nationalist attempt to consolidate control in Manchuria failed during the Communist offensives of 1947.

Thus, during the latter half of 1947 and first half of 1948, Communist forces were able to reverse the tide of battle and capture most of the countryside in northern China and Manchuria, and capture major cities in the critical center of the North China Plain. Importantly too, the Americans had become suspicious of the capability of the Nationalist government to form a legitimate democratic regime and began to draw down on their support of the regime. This was especially apparent as General Marshall's attempts to make peace between the Communists and Nationalists were thwarted by Nationalist intransigence. Marshall, by 1948 the Secretary of State, warned Congress that he thought efforts to support the Nationalists in an all-out war with Communists would be fruitless and a waste of resources. On the other side of things, however, it was important to note that Stalin still pressed for the Communists to maintain their alliance with the Nationalists, and remained intensely skeptical about the Chinese Communists.

### **Korea**

After the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Imperial Japan annexed Korea in 1910. Korea was the first step in Japan's path to establishing an empire in East Asia. Serving both as an extractive colony,

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via Japan's industrialization and taxation policies, and as a stepping stone to Manchuria and China, Korea was a critical part of Japan's empire.

During the decades of Japanese rule, Korean dissidents were scattered and unable to form any semblance of a united opposition to Japanese rule. While the traditional sources of authority were eliminated or co-opted into Japanese rule, exile groups sought to advocate for independence in exile. While the first ten years of Japanese rule saw a very authoritarian regime restrict almost activity, the March First Movement in 1919 brought about a more relaxed civilian rule. However, this still encouraged dissenters, as rights continued to be severely restricted. In Chinese coastal centers (Shanghai and Guangzhou), dissenters formed the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in 1919; despite the government's inability to garner much support or many resources, its leaders would later serve as some of the people who formed the core of the post-war governments in Korea. Throughout the 1920's repressive Japanese rule continued, even as the country was industrialized and agricultural output was intensified, all in service of Japanese interests both government and business. In 1931, the military was returned to power in Korea. This led to a period of increased subjugation as Koreans were forced to adopt Shinto practices and Japanese names. Millions of Koreans were forced to work in mines, factories, and as sex workers for the Japanese as war efforts in China and eventually the Pacific picked up pace in the 1930's.

At the Cairo Conference between Franklin Roosevelt, Chiang Kai-Shek, and Winston Churchill, it was agreed that the post-war independence of Korea must be ensured. This was followed by Stalin's agreement at the Yalta Conference on a short period of trusteeship splitting the peninsula between American and Soviet forces. The occupation zones were decided along the 38th parallel. This left the Americans with occupation of a territory that included 16 million people and the capital Seoul, and the Soviets with nine million people and most of the Japanese industrial centers, including Pyongyang.

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Occupation itself began soon after the Japanese surrender, with Soviet forces rapidly taking over the northern half of the country by the end of August 1945 and American forces taking control of the South by the end of September. However, the Imperial Japanese authorities had taken governmental transition matters into their own hands by helping forming the Committee for the Preparation of Korean Independence, which was led by Lyuh Woon-Hyung. Koreans of all ideological stripes were convinced at this time that the most important political goal was the immediate creation of self-government. The group worked to establish People's committees throughout the country. This committee then established a government in Seoul called the People's Republic of Korea in early September. However, the United States Military Government soon abolished the government in the South while the People's Committees in the North were co-opted by the Soviets. Lyuh Woon-Hyung stepped down in order to form the People's Party of Korea and continued to stringently argue for a unified Korea. In the same way, the US administration did not recognize the Provisional Government that was returning from exile in China; the members of this government were not afforded any role by virtue of their exile government.

While the Soviets and Americans agreed on unification in principle, the allies conceived of a "trusteeship" government for four years under the four powers of the Soviets, Americans, British, and Chinese. They announced this policy in early 1946. This resulted in violent reactions throughout Korea. The opposition to trusteeship led to the Joint U.S.-U.S.S.R Commission to meet in Seoul from March to August in 1946. This commission failed to find a compromise for unifying Korea, as the Soviets refused through various means to allow for opposition Korean groups from being consulted. This was mainly accomplished by their demand that any parties opposed to trusteeship could not be included in the consultation process. The Americans disagreed with this demand, as they felt that this would have excluded too broad a swathe of the Korean political spectrum. Faced with Soviet opposition, the United States referred the question to the nascent United Nations.

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### **United States Army Military Government in Korea**

Soon after occupation began, differences in the policies quickly set the two occupation zones on separate paths. Starting with the announcement of the trusteeship, things began to get interesting in the American zone. After violent protests, the Americans responded by forming the Representative Democratic Council in February 1946, with Syngman Rhee serving as chairman.

The American Military Government co-opted Japanese governor by using them as advisors, a very unpopular move. This compounded the previous disbandment of the People's committees. After the appointment of the advisory Representative Democratic Council in early 1946, the government organized the Interim Legislative Assembly in late 1946, with elections for half of the members and the other half appointed by the American Military Government. This government had the power to enact some laws, but was subject to a military veto.

Thus, in late 1946 with the Interim Legislative Assembly elections, discontent boiled over in the Autumn Uprising. The uprising demanded the restoration of the people's committees, higher wages, and the release of prisoners. Protesters stormed police stations, and the entire movement was quickly suppressed with force by the American military government. Meanwhile, the election itself for the Interim Legislative Assembly was boycotted by leftist parties and some further right parties, leading to the election of the moderate right wing supporters of Kim Kyu-Sik. However, this Assembly had no choice but to oppose trusteeship as the representatives of the people, and soon voted to condemn the trusteeship plan.

The Soviets rejected the UN plan in September 1947 to hold Korea-wide elections for a National Assembly. Soon, it became obvious to the southern government that the Soviets were not going to acquiesce to American plans for a unified Korea. Developments in the North made clear that they intended to set up a communist government (see below). Therefore, politicians were left with two basic choices: gain independence in the South but face a division of Korea, or postpone

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independence while waiting to resolve division. Kim Kyu-Sik and Kim Ku decided to pursue the latter, and went on missions to talk with the North Korean government that had been formed. Thus, they held out the hope in spring of 1948 for a resolution of division, and they opposed the elections that the UN Temporary Mission went forward with in spring of 1948. Furthermore, the moderate left-wing leader Lyuh Woon-Hyung had been assassinated in 1947 by a radical right-wing fanatic, so the moderate leftists were in disarray. Thus, Syngman Rhee was in position to send his supporters to the Assembly.

The United State Military Government went ahead with the legislative elections in May of 1948, despite opposition by some members of the UN Temporary Commission. Discontent with the divided election was rife in the south. On Jeju Island, thousands rose up against the decision to have a divided election in February, 1948. The uprising was suppressed by the forces of the interim government, leading to the deaths of thousands. Rhee's supporters won the election and the National Assembly in the South was controlled by right-wing nationalists. They adopted a constitution and went ahead with a presidential election in July of 1948, which Syngman Rhee won. Still, they held off on a full declaration of independence, but it was clear in July 1948 that they intended to declare it soon.

During this time, the economy of the south suffered from its severance from the industrial heartland of the country in the north. Rampant inflation made it hard for the businesses that there were to survive and invest, and there was a lack of demand. The U.S. provided aid during this time, but this was more in the form of clothes and food and less in capital goods for the construction of a self-sufficient economy.

### **Soviet Civil Administration for North Korea**

Meanwhile, the Soviets occupation in the north began with at least some Korean assistance. Korean Communists who had worked with communists in insurgencies in Manchuria were put in

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place as government officials in the north. These communists took control of the People's Committees that had sprung up in the aftermath of Japanese withdrawal, allowing the Soviets to immediately set up a domestic, non-foreign, civilian government. Just as in the South, the prominent political leaders opposed the trusteeship plan in early 1946. The leader of the Northern government and the most prominent Korean independence figure in the North was Cho Man Sik. However, he publicly opposed the trusteeship plan, and disappeared into arrest. By February 1946, the provinces under Soviet control formed the Provisional People's Committee for North Korea. This government adopted the structure of the Soviet Union's government. Kim Il-Sung, first secretary of the Central Bureau of the Communist Party was selected as chairman of this government. Within a year (February 1947), a legislative body called the Supreme People's Assembly was created. This Supreme People's Assembly went ahead with the creation of a new government, and in April 1948 a new constitution was adopted.

These governments adapted a series of reforms to crush opposition and establish a communist state in the north. Land redistribution went ahead nearly immediately in March of 1946. This led to a huge exodus of landowners and other to the south, where US military government numbers indicated 400,000 refugees from the north arrived. This also likely included those who depended on incomes from the industries that were also nationalized in the north. Meanwhile, the co-opted moderate leftist groups, including the Korean Democratic Party and the Young Friends' Party were increasingly sidelined in the government as the popular moves of the Communists were celebrated. Nonetheless, the communists themselves were far from unified in the government. While some communists had served, like Kim Il-Sung, as insurgents in armies supported by the Soviets in Manchuria, others had served with the Chinese while others came from more intellectual backgrounds working underground in Korea and Japan.

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This was buttressed by an emphasis on propaganda by the government, celebrating communist values, policies, and programs. The propaganda was also increasingly focused on the person of Kim Il-Sung himself. North Korean propaganda was quite successful in spreading communist ideology by adopting Marxism in the Korean cultural context. The communists focused on the glorification of human will and collective spirit, blending well with traditional Confucian ethics. This also was seen in a focus on the sense of order, with Kim Il-Sung on the top.

The Soviets quickly increased their trade relations with the North Korean regime, and even as the amount of aid decline from 1946 to 1948, trade increased by 200% the first year and by 350% the second. This was part of a campaign to rapidly “modernize” the economy in combination with the land reforms and nationalization. Koreans were keen to reverse the decades of exploitation by the Japanese and the previous centuries of isolationism before the Japanese. These efforts garnered the North Korean government much support from the people during this era - a considerable advantage in comparison to the efforts in the South.

Thus, by summer 1948, the North and the South had gone on very different political and economic paths. The North consolidated power underneath communist rule, but this rule was created by co-opting indigenous efforts at political organization and attacking the interests of a small elite class. The region, already more industrial under Japanese rule, continued industrialization and modernization. Meanwhile, in the South, American military rule shut down the Korean opposition over and over again, and political maneuvering isolated many parts of the population. The American military administration is slated to turn control of the country over to the newly-elected National Assembly and President Syngman Rhee on August 15, 1948.

### **CHARACTER LIST**

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#### **Kim Tu-bong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

A famed Korean linguist, Kim currently serves as Chairman of the Workers' Party in the north.

Exiled in China for his anti-Japanese sentiments, he traveled to Yan'an alongside other Koreans to continue the struggle against Japan. Kim has come to fear that his deputy, Kim Il-sung, has selfish ambitions, though he does not go so far as Choe Chang-ik in accusing Kim Il-sung of developing a cult of personality and plotting to seize control of the Workers' Party. Additionally, Kim Tu-bong has been critical of the Soviets' continued efforts to chart the future of Korea under Kim Il-sung's leadership. Kim's criticisms have won him the sizeable but often silent support of Koreans in the north who support the Communist cause and Kim Tu-bong's leadership.

#### **Kim Il-Sung, Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

Despite his anointment as Josef Stalin's favorite to eventually lead of the north, Kim's control over the Workers' Party, let alone the north itself, remains uncertain as opposition to his rule grows from within and without the Party. Raised in China, Kim's leadership within the Party has been met with scorn and sometimes even ridicule, as even his ability to speak Korean has been rendered marginal at best by his upbringing outside of the peninsula. Favored by the Soviet Civil Administration, Kim's image before much of the Korean public is positive, with many convinced that his leadership can quickly and efficiently lead the country to Communist utopia. As such, Kim has the ability to rouse mass public sentiment in support of his actions.

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### **Chu Yong-ha, Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

Like Pak Heon-yeong, Chu's resistance of the Japanese occupation never took him outside of the peninsula. Now a Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee, Chu supports his mentor's efforts to ensure that the future of the north be decided either collectively by all factions within the Workers' Party or by Koreans who never fled their homeland, even if they continued fighting the Japanese after doing so. A well-known intellectual himself, Chu commands the loyalty of the north's intellectual elite, which has firm control over media and the arts in the country.

### **Choe Chang-ik, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

Like many of his compatriots, Choe fought Japanese rule in Korea from an early age. In 1936, following his imprisonment for anti-Japanese agitation, he fled Korea for China, eventually making his way to Yan'an, the base of operations for the Communist Party of China. While in China, he developed and trained a militia, the Korean Volunteer Army, to fight Japanese rule on the peninsula. Upon his return to Korea, Choe eventually assimilated into Kim Il-sung's Workers' Party of North Korea, though he has never been fully trusting of Kim's leadership or the deputy chairman's intentions. He has been vocally critical of what he fears is Kim Il-sung's development of a cult of personality and has become the leader of a powerful faction within the Workers' Party - the so-called Yan'an Faction - made up of Koreans who continued their struggle against the Japanese from behind Chinese Communist lines. Though the Korean Volunteer Army has been formally dissolved, Choe, as one of its founders, retains the loyalty of hundreds of its members.

### **Ho Ka-i, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

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Born in the Soviet Union, Ho Ka-i joined the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the age of 22. An avowed Marxist, he nonetheless spent the 1930s fearing he would be arrested during Josef Stalin's mass purges. Subject to investigations during much of that decade, he eventually was deemed to not pose a threat to Stalin's brand of Communism and was sent to Korea to serve as a translator for Soviet authorities. In Korea, Ho became a member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, and he now serves as the chief representative of Soviet interests on that Committee. As a result, Ho is currently the sole official that can effectively liaise with the Soviets and make requests from them for aid or other forms of assistance. Ho supports General Shtykov's anointing of Kim Il-sung to eventually assume authority over the north.

### **Pak Heon-yeong, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

A prominent independence activist in his younger years, Pak was one of the most influential pro-Communist thinkers in Korea during the Japanese occupation and following the war. Finding himself in the south following the war, Pak created and then headed the Korean Communist Party south of the border until the United States military governorship expelled him from the country. Though he now resides in the north, Pak continues to direct subversive pro-Communist operations in the south from the north. Pak, who mentored the Party's other Deputy Chairman, Chu Yong-ha, resents efforts from factions led by Kim Tu-bong and Kim Il-sung to decide the future of the country, believing that his own loose band of political activists, comprised of Koreans who continued to resist the Japanese from within the peninsula during the war, has the most legitimacy in deciding the future of the north.

### **Chang Tal-u, Director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Workers' Party of North Korea**

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Founded in early 1948 to rapidly and effectively promote the ideals of the north's Communist revolution, the Department is the sole governmental entity charged with the dissemination of such ideals. Chang, an orphan who would grow up in Manchuria and later be adopted by fiercely Communist parents, returned to Korea in his early twenties to fight the Japanese in a guerrilla battalion. Known for his ability to charm others and orate publicly, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party felt him a natural fit to head the country's propaganda organs. Chang's Department is rapidly coming to oversee the production of much of the country's art, music, and film, and it is responsible for creating and distributing pro-government leaflets and posters. He has yet to determine which faction within the Workers' Party he sides on the matter of the country's leadership and direction.

### **O Yong-hyon, Director of the State Security Department**

Formed in early 1948, the State Security Department was created to ensure the internal defense of the Communist revolution in the north. O, the son of peasants in northern Korea, was raised by a family with pro-Japanese inclinations. In his early years, O went so far as to join a Japanese-aligned militia. O would not ally himself with the Communist cause until 1936, when his unit was overrun by poorly-equipped but fiercely-determined Communist guerrillas. Known for his cunning ruthlessness, O was appointed to head the State Security Department when the department formed. At his disposal is an unknown number of state security operatives known as "Bowibu." O is charged with rooting out anti-government activities, managing reeducation camps, and overseeing counterintelligence operations. He has yet to determine which faction within the Workers' Party he sides on the matter of the country's leadership and direction.

### **Yi Shi-sop, Director of the People's Security Department**

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Formed in early 1948 to provide broad law enforcement services in the north, the People's Security Department oversees tens of thousands of public security personnel. Much of Yi's family was killed for vocal dissent against Japanese rule. Never having left Korea, he fought against the Japanese in a guerrilla battalion for years in the 1930s. After 1946, Yi, who had subscribed to Communism a decade prior, caught the eye of several senior Workers' Party and was, by 1948, promoted to lead the People's Security Department. He is charged with the day-to-day enforcement of legal directives, overseeing the internal travel of citizens, and conducting investigations on behalf of the country's judicial system in alleged crimes outside of the government. He has yet to determine which faction within the Workers' Party he sides on the matter of the country's leadership and direction.

### **General Choe Yong-gon, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army**

Though the force can trace its origins to anti-Japanese guerrilla fighters in the 1930s, the Korean People's Army was not formally established until early 1948. An avowed Communist who spent much of his youth fighting in China, first alongside Chiang Kai-shek, then for the Communists, and finally in an anti-Japanese Manchurian guerrilla battalion, Choe returned to Korea in 1946. A hugely talented commander, he was appointed Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army in early 1948. Though the Army remains a poorly-equipped and trained force, Choe has overseen a series of reforms that have begun to shape the force into a more effective entity. Now, he directly oversees several hundred thousand regular troops. He has yet to determine which faction within the Workers' Party he sides on the matter of the country's leadership and direction.

### **General Yun Il-kuk, Commander of the Supreme Guard Command**

A branch of the Korean People's Army, the Supreme Guard Command provides exclusive protection for all senior members of the Workers' Party and the northern government. With respect

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to the protection of senior officials, all but their closest bodyguards are subordinate to Yun. Yun, a poet in his early years who to this day is well-respected across the Party for his calm voice and shrewd wisdom, was selected to run the Supreme Guard Command shortly after the creation of the Korean People's Army because of his tactical brilliance (he is known to have fought Japanese units effectively when his forces numbered a quarter of that) and his reputation for impartiality. He has yet to determine which faction within the Workers' Party he sides on the matter of the country's leadership and direction.

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