

United Nations and Reds to Discuss Korean Peace

U. S. and Allies Will Attempt to Get Communists to Agree on Settlement to End New Dangers of War

THE United States and her UN allies are trying this fall to win a real peace for Korea. Peace talks are to be held with the communist Chinese and North Koreans, who warred against the UN for 37 months. The discussions are to get under way in October.

Fighting in Korea ended under a truce effective July 27. It is a well known fact, though, that the truce is no guarantee that fighting won't start again. The UN wants to work out an agreement with the Reds that will mean no more war for Korea.

If fighting starts again, it easily could spread to other parts of Asia. New fighting in Korea could, in fact, lead to another world war. So building a real peace in Korea is of tremendous importance.

Reaching a settlement is bound to be difficult, though. The UN nations don't agree completely among themselves on what course to follow. South Korea, in whose defense the UN fought, has its own ideas about making peace. The UN and the Reds disagreed before and during the war on how to treat Korea. Most of their disagreements still exist today.



THE TASK of rebuilding shattered Korea will include helping thousands of children, orphaned and impoverished by the recent war

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The war. Once a single country, Korea was divided after World War II. North Korea became a communist land tied to Russia and Red China. South Korea became a republic with the help of the U.S. and other UN countries.

North Korean Reds started the war by invading South Korea in June 1950. Chinese Red forces entered the fight several months later. Russian forces took no direct part in the war, but Russia did supply her Red allies with large quantities of weapons and, probably, advisers.

The UN urged free nations to help South Korea defend herself against the lawless Red attack. United States forces headed a UN army and—with the South Koreans—did most of the fighting. Great Britain, France, Turkey, and others sent some troops to Korea, but not nearly as many as we did. In all, 21 UN countries supplied military or medical aid to South Korea.

The Reds wanted to conquer the southern republic and unite it with communist North Korea. The UN's aim was to prevent conquest of the little republic. By doing so, the UN hoped to show the world that lawless attack upon a free country does not pay. Twice, the UN was nearly defeated, but it finally forced the Reds back.

The truce. UN-Red talks on ending the war began in July 1951, but two years went by before both sides reached agreement. Under the July 27 truce, these steps were agreed upon:

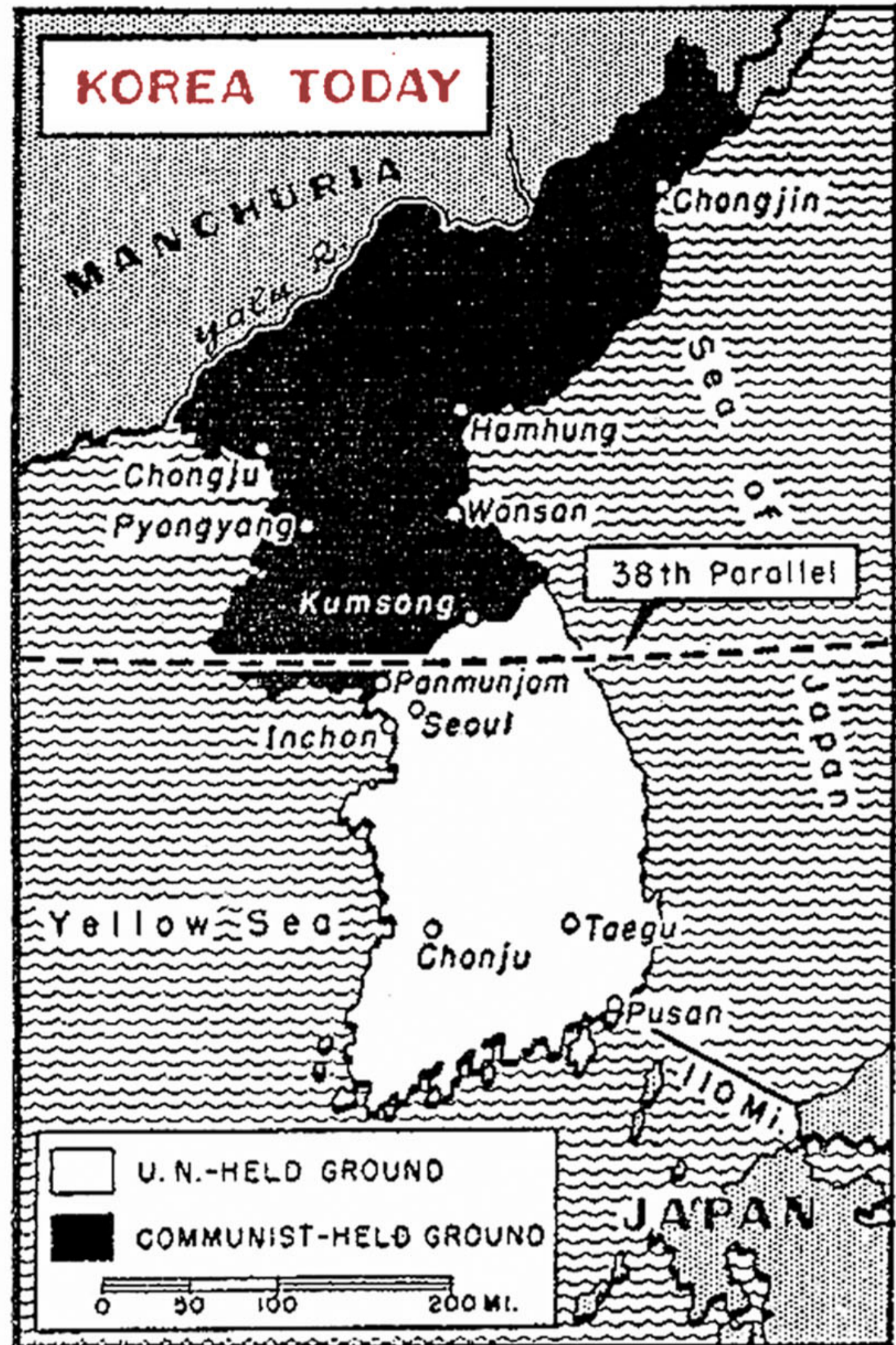
1. Troops on both sides quit fighting and drew back from the battle line, leaving a 2½-mile-wide strip of land between them.

2. An exchange was begun of war prisoners who wanted to go home. Prisoners who don't want to go home are to be turned over to a committee made up of representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and India. These are considered "neutral" nations.

The UN holds thousands of Chinese and some North Koreans who say they don't want to return to communist rule. The Reds hold some UN soldiers—including Americans, it is reported—who don't want to come home. If such men still say they want to stay away from their homelands after 4 months, the prisoner committee may set them free. The men then may be allowed to choose new home countries.

The prisoner question has caused trouble ever since truce talks started in 1951. New troubles arose when the actual exchange began. The U.S. heard that the Reds were holding back a number of our men in violation of the truce. It probably

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will take months to get a report on what has happened to many Americans and other UN troops who may still be in Red hands.

3. The UN-Red conference this fall will try to agree on the withdrawal of Chinese forces from North Korea and UN forces from South Korea. The truce also pledges both sides to try to reach a peaceful settlement of the whole Korean question at the coming fall conference.

The cost. The war cost heavily in men and money on both sides, and left much of Korea in ruins.

More than 25,000 Americans were killed. Another 13,000 of our troops are missing, and many of these probably are dead. More than 100,000 Americans were wounded. We spent about \$15 billion for materials used in the war.

South Korea puts its troop losses at more than 250,000 killed, wounded, and missing. In addition, between 1 and 1½ million men, women, and children—civilians—lost their lives. Bombs, artillery shells, and fire destroyed homes, factories, schools, and hospitals. Of every 10 South Koreans, probably 4 are poor, homeless refugees at the present time.

Turkey, Great Britain, France, and others sent comparatively few troops to Korea. Their losses were about 11,000 dead, missing, and wounded.

Communist Chinese and North Korean losses, our military men believe, total close to 1½ million dead plus hundreds of thousands of wounded.

Everyone is happy that the truce brought an end to the costly fighting and killing. We cannot yet look upon the truce as a victory, though. Many dangers still lie ahead of us in Korea.

Red China. She can upset the

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peace talks this fall by asking too high a price for settling the Korean question.

First, she may demand admission to the UN. The U.S. now looks on the government of Red China as unlawful and has been against letting it into the UN. We recognize General Chiang Kai-shek as lawful head of the Chinese government—even though the Reds drove him from the China mainland in 1949. We have supported Chiang as a UN member. Britain, India, and others, however, seem to want Red China in the international organization. The Reds may press the issue at the fall conference.

Second, Red China may ask that the UN give her the island of Formosa off the coast of China. Formosa has been General Chiang's government headquarters since he lost the China mainland to the Reds. We have opposed all efforts by the Reds to gain control of Formosa up to now, and we are expected to do so at the talks this fall.

Third, Red China may demand the right to trade freely with us and all UN nations. The U.S. blocks the sale of goods useable for war as well as a number of other materials. Many of our allies also try to keep war materials from going to the Reds. The idea is that keeping goods from the Reds is one way to weaken their dangerous power.

Britain and Japan, though, need new markets badly. They'd like to work out agreements to sell machines and manufactured goods of all kinds to China, and get Chinese minerals, cotton, and tea in return.

The UN-Red conference this fall is supposed to deal only with Korea. A loophole in the truce agreement, however, makes it possible for China to bring up other questions. It may be that compromises can be proposed which we, our allies, and the Reds will accept. Nevertheless, there's a real danger that the conference can break up in a dispute over the Red demands. It all depends on whether Mao Tse-tung, communist leader of China, and Russia are willing to negotiate reasonably.

South Korea. The UN went to war to save the Republic of South Korea from Red conquest. The republic's president, Syngman Rhee, isn't happy about the truce, though. He thinks the UN should have kept the war going until North Korea could be joined to his country under a single democratic government.

Rhee once said that his troops would fight alone if the UN signed the truce. That threat held up the signing for several weeks. Then Rhee said he didn't approve the

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truce, but he would not block it. Later he made speeches suggesting that he wanted the war to start up again.

In an effort to straighten out troubles with Rhee, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles flew to Korea last month.

Dulles promised to ask Congress to approve \$1 billion in aid to help South Korea repair its war damage during the next 3 or 4 years. Congress already has authorized \$200 million for Korean postwar reconstruction.

Dulles also made a military agreement with Rhee, which will become effective if it is approved by the Senate. Under the agreement, we promise to help South Korea build up her army. Also, we would take steps to aid the country again if the Reds make a new attack upon it.

Rhee has promised not to do anything that could start the war again during the first 90 days of the UN-Red conference this fall. If he should break that promise, the U.S. has let it be known that he can expect no aid from us. Secretary Dulles has expressed the belief that Rhee will keep his word.

At the end of 90 days of talks with the Reds, the U.S. will add up the results of the talks. If the Reds have shown that they don't want to make any serious agreements, we may then walk out of the conference.

The future. Difficult, dangerous weeks lie ahead of us. The truce could be broken and the war started again, even before the UN-Red talks this fall. The talks could break down. In that case, we and our allies would have to try to find some other way of solving the problem.

There is also the possibility of serious disagreements among the western allies themselves. They have already shown differences of opinion over which nations should attend the conference and other related issues.

All Americans should study and discuss the issues involved, and help decide what should be done about them. The future can bring new war and more mass killing if we make a serious misstep. Or it can bring a more peaceful world if we and our allies act wisely.