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**Records of the American Delegation,
U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission
on Korea, and Records Relating
to the United Nations Temporary
Commission on Korea (UNTCOK)
1945-1948**



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RECORDS OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION,
U.S.-U.S.S.R. JOINT COMMISSION ON KOREA, AND
RECORDS RELATING TO THE UNITED NATIONS
TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA (UNTCOK)
1945-1948

The records of the American delegation, U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission on Korea, and records relating to the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK), filmed on the 23 rolls of this microfilm publication, are part of Records of International Conferences, Commissions, and Expositions, Record Group (RG) 43.

The records consist of minutes of meetings, press releases, joint communiqués, correspondence, memorandums, airgrams, telegrams, reports, studies, agendas, the texts of speeches, and background materials. The publication is divided into two parts, each of which is arranged partially by type of record and partially by subject. Both parts are duplicated somewhat by records in the central decimal file of General Records of the Department of State, RG 59, and in Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, RG 84.

The U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission on Korea was established by the Moscow Agreement, made on December 27, 1945, at the Moscow Foreign Ministers Conference. The Moscow Agreement provided for the creation of a Joint Commission on Korea, composed of representatives of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to study Korean economic and political conditions and to make recommendations for the formation of a provisional government for all of Korea. The Commission first met at Seoul, Korea, on March 20, 1946. Discussions soon broke down over the question of which Korean political parties should be allowed to participate in the provisional government. By July 1947 the negotiations were hopelessly deadlocked. On September 17, 1947, the United States laid the question of Korean independence before the United Nations General Assembly, which established the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK) on November 14, 1947.

The membership of UNTCOK consisted of representatives of Australia, Canada, China, El Salvador, France, India, the Philippines, and Syria. Although the United States was not represented on UNTCOK, some members of the American delegation, U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Commission on Korea, participated in a Liaison and Election Committee established by the U.S. military command to coordinate relations between UNTCOK and the United States Armed

Forces in Korea (USAFIK). UNTCOK observed elections held in South Korea in 1948, but it was not permitted to do so in North Korea. It submitted a report stating that a lawful government had been established in South Korea. The United Nations General Assembly approved this report by resolution on December 12, 1948; the same resolution created the United Nations Commission on Korea to replace UNTCOK.

Most of the documents in these files have been declassified. Those that remain classified have been removed from the files and replaced by withdrawal notices, which identify the documents in question and the reasons for their removal. The withdrawal notices have been filmed as part of this publication.

J. Dane Hartgrove wrote this introduction and arranged the records. Shelby Bale edited the introduction.

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