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UNITED NATIONS COMMAND KOREAN ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS, 1951-1953

Introduction

On 11 rolls of this publication, T1152, are reproduced the minutes of the Military Armistice Conference, staff, liaison, and control officers meetings. Only part of the series Korean Armistice Negotiation Records, June 1951 - July 1953 [Preliminary Inventory (PI) 127, Entry 13] (7 ft.) has been microfilmed. Most of the permanently accessioned records of the United Nations Command were originally accessioned into Record Group (RG) 333, Records of International Military Agencies, and now have been reallocated to RG 554, Records of General Headquarters, Far East Command, Supreme Commander Allied Powers, and United Nations Command.

Records Description

The United Nations Command (UNC) with General Headquarters in Tokyo was established on July 24, 1950. In response to a resolution of the United Nations Security Council, the President of the United States designated General Douglas MacArthur as Commander in Chief of the military forces assisting the Republic of South Korea to repel armed attack by North Korea. Although U.N. forces were mainly American in composition, 21 other members of the United Nations furnished naval, ground combat, service, or medical units.

On July 10, 1951, representatives of the United Nations Command, on the one side, and of the Commanders of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers, on the other, met for the first in a series of talks to discuss a possible cease-fire and related problems. Thus began the "Military Armistice Conference" negotiations. Although the initial meetings were held at Kaesong, after October 7, 1951, the delegates convened at Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. The talks ended with the signing of an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953. Among other matters, the agreement provided for the establishment of a Military Armistice Commission (MAC), composed of an equal number of general or flag rank officer representatives from each side. The MAC supervised implementation of the armistice agreement, which included an agreement for the release of most POWs and civilians held by both sides. UNC had already provided for the UNC component of MAC when it established the UNC Military Armistice Commission on June 20, 1953.

Part of the series titled Korean Armistice Negotiation Records, June 1951 - July 1953 [PI 127, Entry 13] (7 ft.) have been microfilmed and consist mostly of the following: Military Armistice Conference transcripts and minutes of staff, liaison, and control officers meeting. Of special interest in the staff officers meeting records include details of the draft armistice agreement (26 July - 5 August 1952) which begins on frame #1; revisions to the draft armistice agreement (9 June - 21 July 1953) beginning on frame #104; the exchange of sick and wounded (8-19 April 1953) beginning on frame #239; repatriation of POWs (7 - 8 June 1953) which begins on frame #338; and the renegotiation of the Military Demarcation Line and the boundaries of the Demilitarized Zone (11 June - 22 July 1953) beginning with frame #359. The film is available for use in the Microfilm Reading Room in College Park, MD, or upon request.

The files from Entry 13 not filmed as part of T1152 include: conference proceedings summaries; protests of alleged armistice violations and replies; and messages exchanged between key participants in the armistice negotiations. Also not included are weekly Military Armistice Conference "summaries of events" and a staff manual on armistice implementation.

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