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31 May 1954

Lt. General John B. Coulter
Agent General
UNKRA
New York, N.Y.

Dear General Coulter:

When I took leave from you and Korea you were kind enough to ask me to keep you informed on my work and activities.

(I) Since I am back I had quite a number of occasions to speak on Korea to selected groups and to larger audiences, partly with slides and partly without. My coming back lecture at the New School for Social Research was attended by more than 300 people.

I never missed the occasion to emphasize the importance and effectiveness of UNKRA's work. In discussions following the lectures I noticed that everybody wants to know what is being done in the field of reconstruction; very few have heard about it and it is with genuine interest and satisfaction that they receive detailed information on UNKRA projects and activities.

I gave one slide lecture in Washington for a small group of officials of the American-Korean Foundation and their friends. Columbia University's Institute of Arts and Sciences asked me last week to give a slide lecture on Korea at their big McMillan Theater; the date to be fixed this week.

In a radio interview on WOR I devoted a considerable part of the allotted time to UNKRA achievements.

Tex MacCreery invited me for an interview on Korea with photographs on his television program "Tex and Jinx", which is the foremost on the air.

(II) I am enclosing the announcement of a show of photographs which opened on the 14th of this month and shall run till the end of June. This exhibit, though in a modest and unconventional place, proves to be quite successful. The gallery is attached

to a new café, the idea being to create a place to exhibit top quality artistic photographs without any commercial strings.

I considered it a honor to be selected for the opening exhibit and I made it an all Korean show. One of the eight panels is devoted exclusively to UNKRA work and the problems of reconstruction. About 1500 people have seen it within the first two weeks and the comments are extremely favorable.

I wonder if a travelling exhibit for UNKRA through the States and may be abroad would not be a good medium to make people aware of our achievements. With a few months additional work to complete certain aspects and by keeping the established level of recognized quality, it could be quite influential. It must be kept in mind that only top professional approach promises success.

(III)

I may state without resentment but with regret that all the professional suggestions which I made to my department incessantly, from the first month in Korea to the last letter before accepting my severance, met with a naivety and uninterestedness which may well be the reason of our poor contacts and lacking influence on public opinion.

The Museum of Modern Art has retained ten of my Korean photographs for their great show "The Family of Man", starting next spring in New York and laid out to travel all over the world.

Some of my Korean photographs will be published in yearbooks and magazines. New York Times Magazine as well as the New York Sunday Times published pictures about two months ago.

With all these activities besides the day to day work necessary to make my living, I had not yet time to examine thoroughly the possibilities of the book on Korea and its people which Dr. Syngman Rhee so warmly encouraged me to do the evening I spent with him showing my slides and of which I spoke to you the day of my departure.

First contacts show that it will depend on special interest on the part of a publisher as picture books are expensive to produce and it seems break even only after 4,000 copies are sold. As time permits I shall follow up the matter.

I give you this detailed report, dear General Coulter, to show that I have tried my best to fill the gap left by our PIO.

For a single person the power of action is limited. I hope, however, to have made people aware to some degree of your tireless and invaluable efforts on behalf of the Korean (and for that matter of the American) people.

I would be grateful indeed for the opportunity of seeing you for a few minutes during your stay in New York to have your suggestions and to discuss further possibilities.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Breitenbach

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