FAR EAST

2. Strong UN action urged against President Rhee:

American Charge Lightner in Pusan believes that if democratic government in South Korea is to be preserved, immediate action is required to curb President Rhee’s dictatorial methods.

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Lightner recommends a protest by the UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea. If this does not bring immediate results, the Charge suggests a 24-hour ultimatum specifying that UN forces will take protective action unless imprisoned National Assemblymen are released and their safety and right to meet guaranteed.

Lightner comments that if the violation of democratic processes is permitted in Korea, where the United Nations is in a strong position, Korean democratic elements will be completely disillusioned and the new governments of the Far East will gain the impression that the United States is unwilling to support the principles it professes.