

## No Agents Dropped From Sunken NK Boat

By Oh Young-jin  
Staff Reporter

It is not likely that the sunken North Korean spy boat either took in agents waiting on shore or dropped off fresh infiltrators, the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) concluded yesterday.

The communist semi-submersible was sunk in an exchange of fire with ROK Navy ships in high seas 100 km off Koje Island on Friday morning. It was first sighted in South Korean territorial waters near the south coast after darting in from the seas off Yosu.

In a press conference yesterday, a JCS spokesman told reporters, "The communist semi-submersible was out of sight for only about 59 minutes, a span of time too short for it to complete its mission."

The spokesman also cited, among oth-

er things, a lack of traces of onshore activities by infiltrators or onshore sightings of those believed to be spies in the area of Impo-ri in Yosu. It was here that the North Korean boat was first spotted by Army guards using special night vision equipment.

However, he qualified the optimistic view of the JCS by adding that the area where the spy boat was sighted coincides with "shadow areas" which the Army's observation by thermal optical devices doesn't cover. A former communist spy's statements confirmed that the Yosu area is one of key routes for espionage infiltrations.

"In conclusion, we believe that the craft departed from Nampo, a base for seaward infiltrations on North Korea's west coast, but was discovered and subsequently sunk before completing its mission."

He said that an exhaustive review of

the TOD tape's recording of the spy boat's movements revealed that up to five persons were on board.

The submersible used typically carries up to eight people — two guides, four crewmen and two spies.

The JCS said that the sunken craft is believed to be an improved version of the semi-submersible North Korea offers for export, which has been operational since 1995. According to the JCS, the boat weighs about 10 tons, about twice as heavy as the previous type, and can dive 3 meters below the surface using a sophisticated snorkeling system.

Meanwhile, two minesweepers and two salvage ships have experienced difficulties locating the sunken spy boat because the waters in which it sank are up to 129 meters deep, deeper than previously thought, and strong currents prevail.

"In addition, the spy boat was blown to pieces and therefore it will be hard to recover," the JCS said.

At present, the Navy is using a deep sea recovery vehicle (DSRV) to comb the seabed for pieces of the wreck.

About 30 ROK Navy ships are in international waters searching for the "mother ship" that is thought to have dropped off the sunken spy boat. The JCS said that it would take three or four days for the mother ship, possibly disguised as a fishing boat, to make it back to its home port, depending on its cruising speed.

The JCS said that the North Korean agent, whose body was recovered near the area where the boat was sunk, was found with a shard imbedded in his lung. The shard is one of nine that were found in his body.

"The shard in the lung would be fatal, if he hadn't already died from taking a poison capsule," a JCS spokesman said.

In the meantime, the military lifted the high state of alert imposed on the southern port city of Yosu Saturday after concluding search operations and ruling out the possibility that any North Korean agent infiltration had taken place.

The highest-level alert was lifted as of 1 p.m. Saturday. Joint search activities were conducted by members of the military, police and the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP).

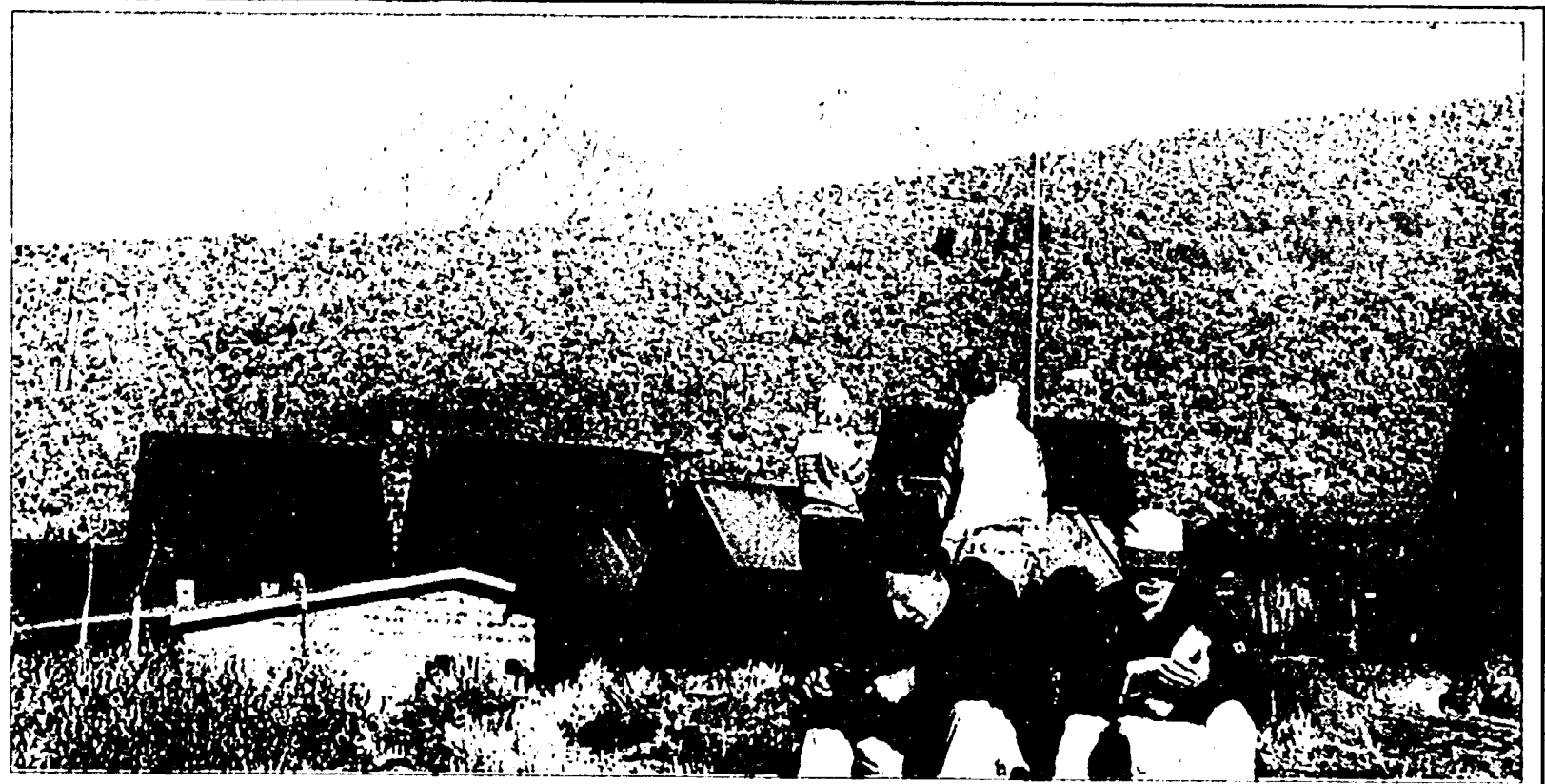
## Korean Cultural Center Opens In Ottawa

A Korean cultural center opened in Ottawa Friday to offer multimedia material and display traditional art works.

The two-story center is located within the Korean Embassy compound and has a library of over 2,000 books and 500 movies, videos and CD-ROMs on the first floor and an exhibition space on the second floor.

The cultural center in Ottawa is the ninth center Korea has opened overseas, joining similar centers in Washington D.C., Tokyo, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Moscow, Bonn and Beijing.

Korea will open cultural centers next year in Osaka, Japan, and Shanghai, China.



Tourists relax over books at Horombo Hut, located at a height of 3,780 meters on Mount Kilimanjaro, after a day of trekking. About 10,800 people visit the mountain, the highest in Africa, every year.

## No One Will Return Unchanged

—From Mt. Kilimanjaro—

By Hong Sun-hee  
Korea Times Correspondent

MOSHI, Tanzania — Serious mountaineers visit Mt. Kilimanjaro with a single aim, to set foot on the top of the snow-capped, symmetrical peak of Africa's highest mountain.

For the non-summit climber, meanwhile, a visit to Mt. Kilimanjaro is a trek on which one learns about him or herself and the people of Tanzania as well as the wonders of nature.

Trekkers may choose to hike from the Kilimanjaro National Park Headquarters at Marangu. Gate, Moshi, which stands at a height of 1,860 meters.

The 34-kilometer Marangu route on the east side of the mountain is the busiest two-way trail in the area, with approximately 10,800 climbers a year.

There are three hut complexes along this route, each of which provides overnight accommodations, a dining room and restrooms. Climbers are encouraged to take four nights, including one night at Mandara Hut located at 2,725 meters and two nights at Horombo Hut at 3,780 meters. From there, the landscape becomes progressively more rugged and rocky, and giant groundsels and lobelias appear on the sparse moor. The path skirts Mawenzi, whose altitude of 5,149 meters makes it the third highest peak in Africa, and then crosses the desert before reaching the last hut, nestled below Kibo at 4,740 meters.

Bookings must be made in advance of departure from one's home country. Due to an increasing number of climbers, it is no longer possible for tour companies or individuals to obtain last minute bookings at Marangu Gate.

Guides escort people back and forth through the forest, marshland, jungle, bush and savannah so that they do not split off from their group. Porters car-



Guide Richard Kessy

ry the heavy burdens of thick clothes, sleeping bags and food for groups throughout the three to five day trip.

Junior guides travel far ahead of the group, clearing the road by removing fallen branches or other obstacles.

Richard Kessy, 41, a veteran guide, is gentle and considerate toward his guests. He seldom asks questions but does his best to answer inquiries about Tanzania's foreign affairs posture, about the Chaga tribe to which he belongs and about the name with which he was baptized by a British bishop who was a friend of his grandfather.

"Through my job, I meet people from different parts of the world and I learn a lot from them. I exchange letters with some of them and one of my guests in Norway who is a tour operator even invited me to visit him in Oslo in January of next year. He wants to help me start my own business," Kessy said.

"If I had enough money, I would buy a computer and recruit travelers through the Internet. My brothers, who are guides, would take over my job and I would just handle the arrangements. I might also escort them from time to time," said the ranger-turned guide.

Kessy is a walking dictionary on the wildlife of Mount Kilimanjaro, one of the few eco-systems near the equator that contains large glacial expanses.

Trekkers can experience both the montane forest and the heath/moorland vegetation zones with the help of this knowledgeable guide.

"Unless you are hasty, you can arrive at Horombo with no serious health problems. Do your best while keeping your body conditions under control. Take a rest when your heart cannot keep up with your walking tempo, then start again. To aim to be the first in the group is ridiculous," he advised.

This pristine natural area is a place where a person can hear their own heartbeat and feel closer to themselves than at any other place on the earth.

Night comes early on the mountain and travelers have little choice but to go to bed because the electric light is so dim in the huts. And the sun rises again the following morning to entice trekkers to explore the hidden side of nature.

To safeguard the environment and wildlife of Kilimanjaro, a National Park was opened in 1977 above the Kilimanjaro Forest Reserve. Its staff maintains the routes and huts while keeping an experienced rescue team at the ready to ensure that the mountain is climbed in comfort and safety.

Korean alpinist Jung Sung-hoon was elected as captain of the 60-strong rescue team in July, 1996 for a five-year term. About 400 Korean individuals fly to Moshi every year to undertake adventures on the mountain.

Whatever the level of one's ability, there is always a challenge to be met on Kilimanjaro. No one who climbs the mountain will return unchanged. The rapidly changing landscape and climate, the open spaces, the brilliant sunlight and the camaraderie of the guides leaves an indelible impression.

And then, of course, there is the unforgettable summit of Africa's highest mountain, correctly described by the first man to see it as a "spectacle of imposing majesty and unapproachable grandeur."



Some 18 foreigners pose with children at the Salvation Army Seoul Broadview Children's Home in Sangam-dong, western Seoul, after presenting them with about 2 million won worth of items, including clothes, toys, food and daily necessities, in addition to 1.6 million won in cash in a ceremony Saturday. More than 100 foreign regular clients, including U.S. 8th Army soldiers, of a pub in Itaewon, took part in the charity drive in the spirit of the holiday season.

Korea Times

## Weather Forecast

### TODAY

Partly cloudy across the country. Morning lows, -4 to 6°C (25-43°F), daytime highs, 4 to 14°C (39-57°F).

Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.

Sunset: 5:17 p.m.

Seoul: Cloudy, later clear

-1°C (39°F)/ 5°C (41°F)

Taejon: Cloudy, later clear

-2°C (39°F)/ 8°C (46°F)

Chuncheon: Cloudy, occasional rain

-3°C (36°F)/ 5°C (41°F)

Kangnung: Partly cloudy

4°C (45°F)/ 10°C (50°F)

Kwangju: Cloudy, later clear

1°C (41°F)/ 10°C (50°F)

Taegu: Clear

2°C (37°F)/ 13°C (55°F)

Pusan: Clear

6°C (43°F)/ 14°C (57°F)

Cheju: Clear

7°C (46°F)/ 13°C (55°F)

### TOMORROW

Clear, later partly cloudy across the nation. Morning lows will range -4 to 4°C (25-39°F), daytime highs, 6 to 14°C (43-57°F).

Sunrise: 7:43 a.m.

Sunset: 5:16 p.m.

Seoul: Clear, later partly cloudy

-3°C (27°F)/ 7°C (45°F)

Taejon: Clear, later partly cloudy

-4°C (25°F)/ 9°C (48°F)

Chuncheon: Clear, later partly cloudy

-3°C (27°F)/ 7°C (45°F)

Kangnung: Clear, later partly cloudy

4°C (39°F)/ 12°C (54°F)

Kwangju: Clear, later partly cloudy

0°C (32°F)/ 11°C (52°F)

Taegu: Clear, later partly cloudy

1°C (34°F)/ 11°C (52°F)

Pusan: Clear, later partly cloudy

4°C (39°F)/ 14°C (57°F)

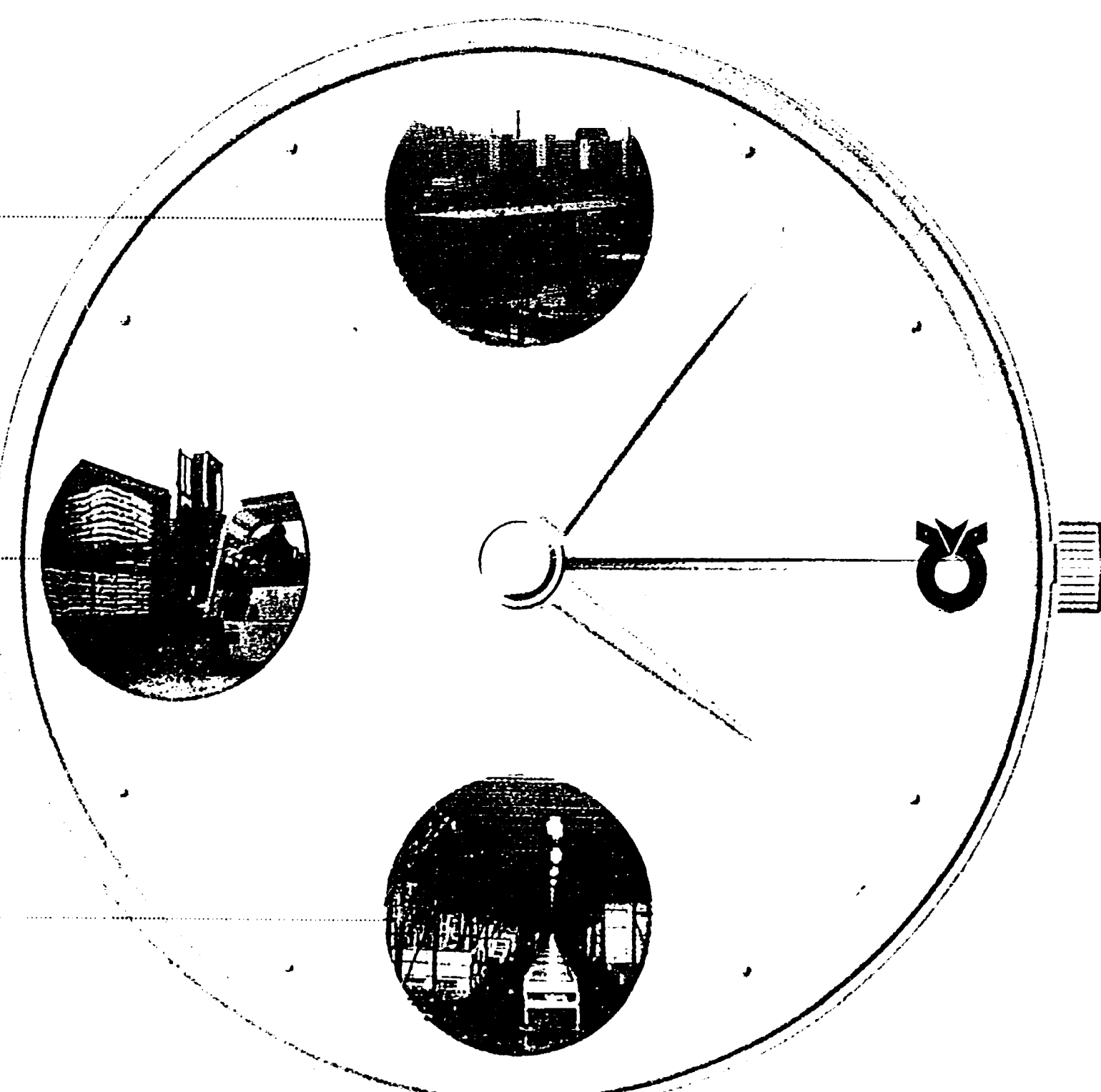
Cheju: Clear, later partly cloudy

6°C (43°F)/ 12°C (54°F)

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생활물자 유통정보망 (EDI 수발주 시스템) 가동



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