

ROK Army Commander of Forces Investing Pyongyang

Situation

It is early summer. The Second Korean War is sputtering to a close. North Korea has lost. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has fled Pyongyang and his location is unknown. Chinese PLA forces occupy territory in the northern part of North Korea; the ROK-US Alliance forces occupy a southern swath of territory from the Korea Bay on the west to the Sea of Japan on the east. Pyongyang is invested by ROK forces and has yet to surrender. There is a strip of land between Chinese and ROK-US Allies that remains uncontrolled, although U.S. and Republic of Korea forces are active in this zone attempting to bring security and stability to the population there.



Things are chaotic. Food, water, medicine, fuel, animal feed and seed stocks are in short supply or non-existent. The power grid is beyond repair and power is available only in those areas close to generators, and even then its availability is sketchy. People cling to their home villages. A few farmers make feeble attempts to plant crops. The threat of widespread famine looms over the devastated countryside.

Only in the port cities on the east coast is there a sign of relief, where foreign aid vessels are able to dock and unload desperately needed cargo. But it is not enough and distribution limited by poor transportation networks and lack of vehicles.

Your Role

You are the four-star army commander of all ROK Army forces surrounding Pyongyang (about 150,000 troops). There remain approximately 18,000 hard core KPA defenders in this city of three million. Your forces have suffered grievous losses in the past three months and are exhausted.

Your Challenge

Under a white flag the KPA forces in Pyongyang send a representative of the senior commander and the senior KWP leader to meet with you. The message to you is that Pyongyang's senior political and military leadership has declared Pyongyang an "Open City," and that the KPA forces in Pyongyang are prepared to lay down their arms and offer no resistance to your subordinate units.

*Note: In war, in the event of the imminent capture of a city, the government/military structure of the nation that controls the city will sometimes declare it an **open city**, thus announcing that it has abandoned all defensive efforts. The attacking armies of the opposing military will then be expected not to bomb or otherwise attack the city but simply march in. The concept aims at protecting the city's historic landmarks and resident civilians from an unnecessary battle.*

Attacking forces do not always respect the declaration of an "open city." Defensive forces will use it as a political tactic as well. In some cases, the declaration of a city to be "open" is made by a side on the verge of defeat and surrender; in other cases, those making such a declaration are willing and able to fight on but prefer that the specific city be spared.

According to the Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, it is forbidden for the attacking party to "attack, by any means whatsoever, non-defended localities."

What actions do you take at this point?