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Concerning the Repeal of Korean and Japanese Laws Applicable to the Korean People

조선국민에게 적용되는 조선 및 일본의 법령폐지에 관한 건

United States Army Military Government in Korea · 16 November 1945

Original Korean source · English translation, Gwangbok Archive

LEGAL AFFAIRS NO. 1 · 16 NOVEMBER 1945

조선국민에게 적용되는 조선 및 일본의 법령폐지에 관한 건

LEGAL AFFAIRS NO. 1 · 16 NOVEMBER 1945

Document and scope

This administrative circular requests proposals from judicial and prosecutorial authorities for removing oppressive or discriminatory laws inherited from the colonial period. It does not itself identify or repeal any specific statute. The National Archives catalogs two pages; its viewer presents both on a single image.

The edition includes the heading, distribution list, subject, both numbered instructions, and closing formula. Marginal archive numbers and stamps are not part of the operative text. The handwritten signatory's name is not securely deciphered and is marked accordingly; no name has been supplied by inference.

Korean text and English translation

Legal Affairs No. 1 · 16 November 1945

United States Army Military Government in Korea
Acting Director of the Bureau of Justice
Military Governor, Major General [name not securely deciphered]

To: the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; its Chief Prosecutor; the presidents of each Court of Appeal; their chief prosecutors; the presidents of each District Court; each chief prosecutor; the senior judge of each branch court; and the chief prosecutor of each branch office.

Concerning the Repeal of Korean and Japanese Laws Applicable to the Korean People

1. In order to remove as promptly as possible those Korean and Japanese laws and regulations in force in Korea that are considered oppressive and discriminatory on grounds of race, religious

belief, or political thought, or that are considered, generally speaking, contrary to the wishes of the Korean people, proposals for the repeal of such laws and regulations are requested for reference. Please submit these proposals to this office.

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2. It would be very useful to attach to the aforementioned proposals a separate statement of reasons for each repeal.
End.

Textual and translation notes

1. The Korean transcription retains the source's mixed Korean–Chinese script. Spacing, punctuation, and line breaks have been regularized for reading. Bracketed wording is editorial and does not appear in the manuscript.

2. 法第一號 is rendered "Legal Affairs No. 1," rather than "Act No. 1": the instrument is correspondence requesting proposals, not an enacted statute. 法令 is translated "laws and regulations"; 此官 means "this office."

3. The manuscript reads 願望 ("wishes"). This also resolves the potentially misleading Hangul 원망 in the archive's modern descriptive summary. The summary is not the transcription used here.

4. The distribution list preserves the period's judicial and prosecutorial offices. "Its" and "their" render 同 ("the same"), referring back to the corresponding court.

Source and citation

United States Army Military Government in Korea. "조선국민에게 적용되는 조선 및 일본의 법령폐지에 관한 건." Legal Affairs No. 1, November 16, 1945. National Archives of Korea, BA0155343, item 2-1. English translation and Korean transcription, Gwangbok Archive, November 11, 2026.

Archive catalog and description · Inspect the original manuscript

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Korean transcription

法第一號　一九四五年十一月十六日

在朝鮮美國陸軍司令部軍政廳
法務局長代理

軍政官 陸軍少將 [姓名判讀未確定]

大法院長 殿
同檢事長 殿
各控訴院長 殿
同檢事長 殿
各地方法院長 殿
各檢事長 殿
各支廳上席判事 殿
各支廳首席檢事 殿

朝鮮國民에 適用되는 朝鮮及日本의 法令廢止에 關한 件

一、朝鮮에 施行되고 있는 朝鮮及日本法令으로써 種族、信仰 又는 政治思想을 理由로 하야 壓制的이고 差別的이라고 認定되는 法令 乃至 一般的으로 보아 朝鮮國民의 願望에 背馳된다고 認定되는 法令을 可及的 速히 除去하기 爲하야 參考코자 하오니 如斯한 法令等의 廢止에 關한 提議書를 此官까지 提出하실 事

二、前記提議書와 같이 廢止에 對한 個別的 理由書를 添附함이 大端 有用함
以上