

Repatriating Prisoners of War in Korea

Chronology

1948, August 15	Establishment of the Republic of Korea (South Korea)
1948, September 9	Establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
1950 -1953	War in Korea between the Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers (KPA/CPV) and the United Nations Armed Forces
1953, July 27	Armistice Agreement signed in Panmunjom. It included an establishment of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC), consisting of India as the chairing country, Czechoslovakia and Poland (nominated by North Korea and China), Sweden and Switzerland (nominated by the United Nations).
1953, September 9	First meeting of the NNRC in Panmunjom
1954, February 21	The NNRC officially finished its work.



The Pavel Winkler collection

Pavel Winkler (1910-2003) graduated in law in Bratislava and became a member of the Communist Party of Slovakia before World War II. He lost most of his family in Auschwitz. He was admitted to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the summer of 1945 and soon assumed diplomatic posts abroad: Switzerland in 1948, the NNRC in Korea in 1953-1954, after a higher military rank was conferred. After his return, he was appointed to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, he was fired from the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry. After the collapse of communism in Czechoslovakia, he was readmitted to the Foreign Ministry as a consultant.

The exhibition consists of two types of photographs: (1) pictures provided by the Indian Armed Forces Information Office (indicated throughout the exhibition as AFIO) which were made available to the members of the Repatriation Commission, and (2) pictures taken by Winkler himself, or of him posing to be photographed (indicated P.W.). The exhibition presents photographs that Pavel Winkler collected as his own memorabilia. The exhibited photographs therefore do not and cannot be a consistent document on the work of the NNRC or on the process of repatriation. The collection reflects Winkler's preferences, particularly meetings of delegations in the

"Pagoda of Peace", Panmunjom sites and situations, and views of and scenes within two POW camps – Tongjang-ni in the southern part of the DMZ, and Songgong-ni in northern part of the DMZ. Winkler – a high ranking representative of Czechoslovakia, which in the 1950's intensively supported North Korea and China – collected photographs documenting repatriation of POWs to North Korea in particular. Pavel Winkler wrote a brief description on the reverse of most of these photographs; although these descriptions require a critical approach as several of them contain factual mistakes and Cold War paradigms.



"Pagoda of Peace", Panmunjom. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall, Busan.



Maj. Gen. William K. Harrison, Chairman of the U. N. Armistice delegation. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall.



General of KPA Nam Il, Chairman of KPA/CPV Armistice delegation, dated by the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall as June 10, 1953.



Signing of the Armistice Agreement in Panmunjom, July 27, 1953. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall.

The aim of the exhibition is not to praise the role of communist Czechoslovakia in the NNRC. Our goal is to present to the public the almost lost (and now saved) photographic documents, and to contribute to the knowledge of events and processes shortly after the conclusion of the armistice in a war commonly referred to as, despite the immense human suffering, "forgotten".



Aerial photo of KPA/CPV exchange point in the area of Panmunjom. United Press Radio photo. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall.

Abbreviations

AFIO	Armed Forces Information Office
AP	Associated Press
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea
KPA/CPV	Korean People's Army/Chinese People's Volunteers
NNRC	Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission
NNSC	Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission
ROK	Republic of Korea, South Korea
POW	Prisoner of War
P.W.	Pavel Winkler

Authors of the exhibition: Prof. PhDr. Milada Poliřenská, CSc., George Hays II., Ph.D., and PhDr. Jindřiřka Kotrllová. **Technical support:** Elizabeth Hwang, Chau Nguyen, and Jean-Baptiste Rigal. **Special thanks** go to JUDr. Jaroslava Kopicřková for saving the photographs of Pavel Winkler. **General Partner and Sponsor of the Exhibition:** Embassy of the Republic of Korea. **Partners of the Exhibition:** The United Nations Peace Memorial Hall in Busan, Republic of Korea, Embassy of India, and The Czech-Korean Society



Gate of "Freedom Village", Panmunjom. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall.



American tank crews listening to the information about the peace talks in Panmunjom. From the U.N. Peace Memorial Hall.

Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission in Panmunjom



1. "Pagoda of Peace" in Panmunjom, nowadays "The Peace Museum", a venue from August 1953 to February 1954 of negotiations of Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, Winkler from AFIO.

2. Top representatives of delegations of NNRC (from right to left), September 1953. P.W.

Poland Col. Władysław Tykociński or Col. M. Graniowski (unconfirmed); Head of delegation, Ambassador Stanislaw Gajewski	Czechoslovakia Head of delegation Ambassador Col. Dr. Ladislav Šimovič; Deputy Head, main political adviser, Envoy Dr. Pavel Winkler
Sweden Jan Stenström and Brig. Gen. Arne Francke (unconfirmed)	Switzerland Head of Hearing Commission, Ambassador Armin Daenkier; Colonel GS Peter Straumann, mil Cdt of NNRC.
India Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission Maj. Gen. of Indian Army Kodandera Subbayya Thimayya; Deputy Chair B. N. Chakravarty	





3, 4 - Top representatives of delegations of NNRC, September 1953, Winkler from AFIO (picture 3), P.W. (picture 4).



5 Officers of the KPA (standing) and the CPV (sitting) addressing the NNRC. P.W.

6 Maj. Gen. Thimayya shaking hands with Pavel Winkler in front of officers of the KPA/CPV. Dated by Winkler 9 September 1953. P.W.

7 The Chinese People's Volunteers' representatives, P.W.



8,9 - Maj. Gen. K. S. Thimayya at a press conference, dated by Winkler 6 October 1953. Winkler from AFIO.

10, 11, 12 - Reception of NNRC, probably at the conclusion of its work, Winkler from AFIO.



a. Delegate of Poland
 b. Pavel Winkler, Czechoslovakia
 c. Delegate of Sweden
 d. Ladislav Šimovič, Czechoslovakia
 e. K.S.Thimayya, India
 f. Military Attaché of India from Tokyo
 g. S. P. P. Thorat, India
 h. Delegate of Switzerland
 i. B.N.Chakravarty, India
 j. Stanislaw Gajewski, Poland
 k. Delegate of Sweden, probably Arne Francke
 l. Peter Straumann, Switzerland

11



12 Maj. Gen. K. S. Thimayya with Pavel Winkler, Winkler from AFIO.



13

Arrival of Czechoslovak delegation to Kaesong. In the center front walks the head of the delegation, Ladislav Šimovič. Pavel Winkler is behind with flowers. Dated by Winkler 4 September 1953. P. W.



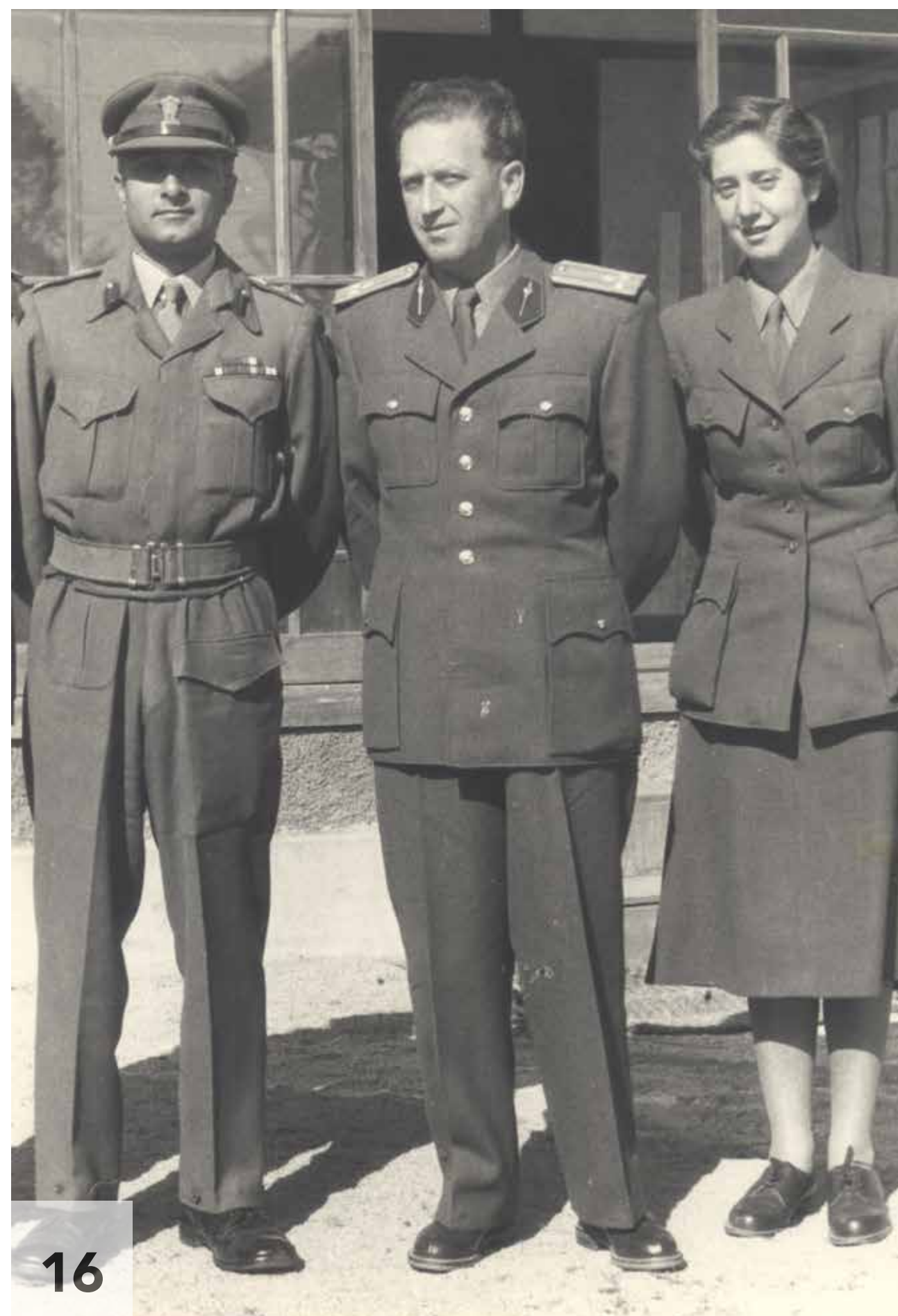
14

L. Šimovič and P. Winkler with a member of the NNRC between them, P.W.



15

L. Šimovič and P. Winkler (in uniforms) with the head of Polish delegation Stanislaw Gajewski, P.W.



16

Brig. B. N. Kaul of the Indian Army, Miss Edenhoffer, and Pavel Winkler in Kaesong, dated by Winkler 18 October 1953, P.W.



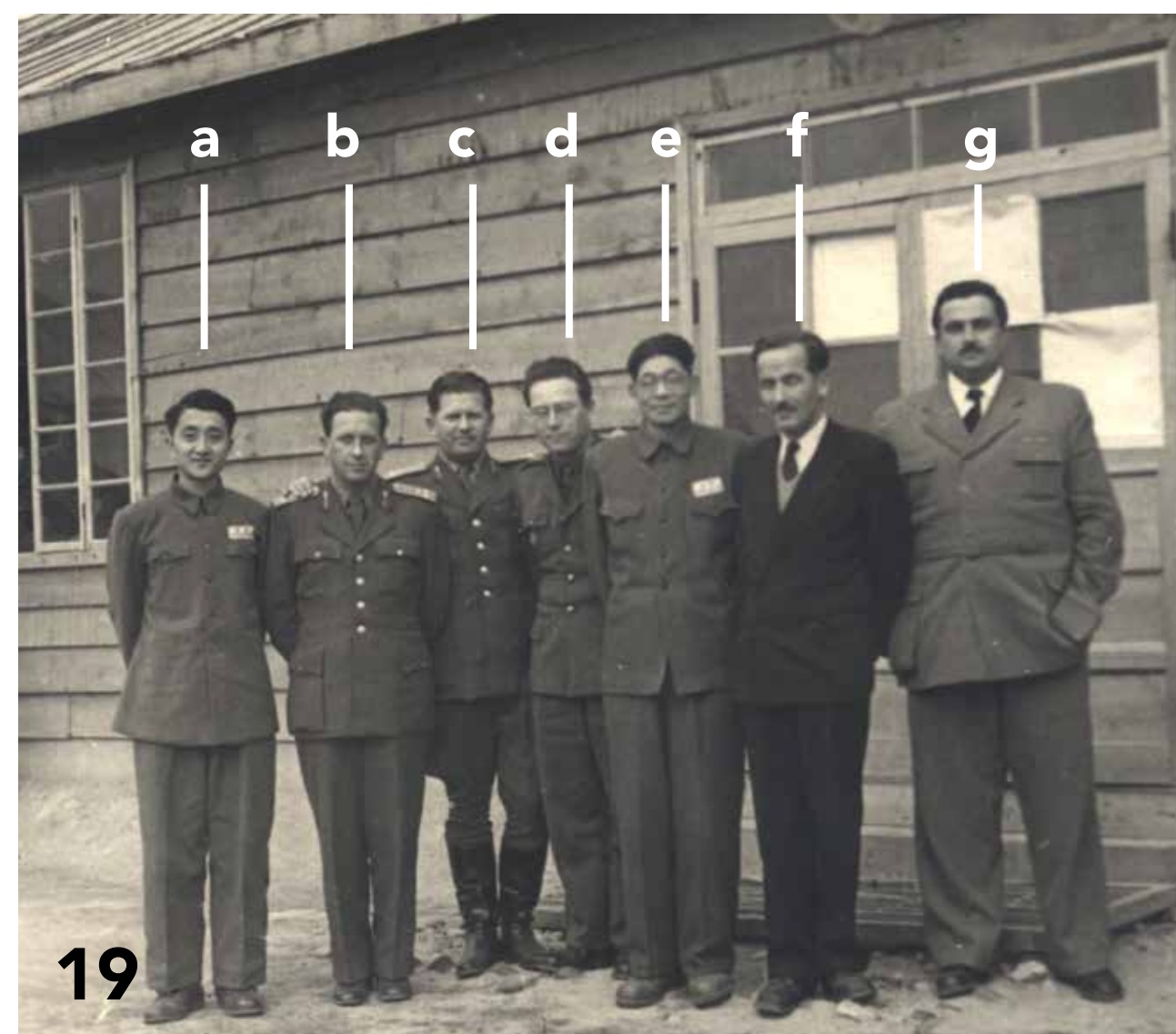
17

Pavel Winkler and Ladislav Šimovič at a historical site near Kaesong, P.W.



18

Pavel Winkler (on the right) and a Czechoslovak officer, P.W.



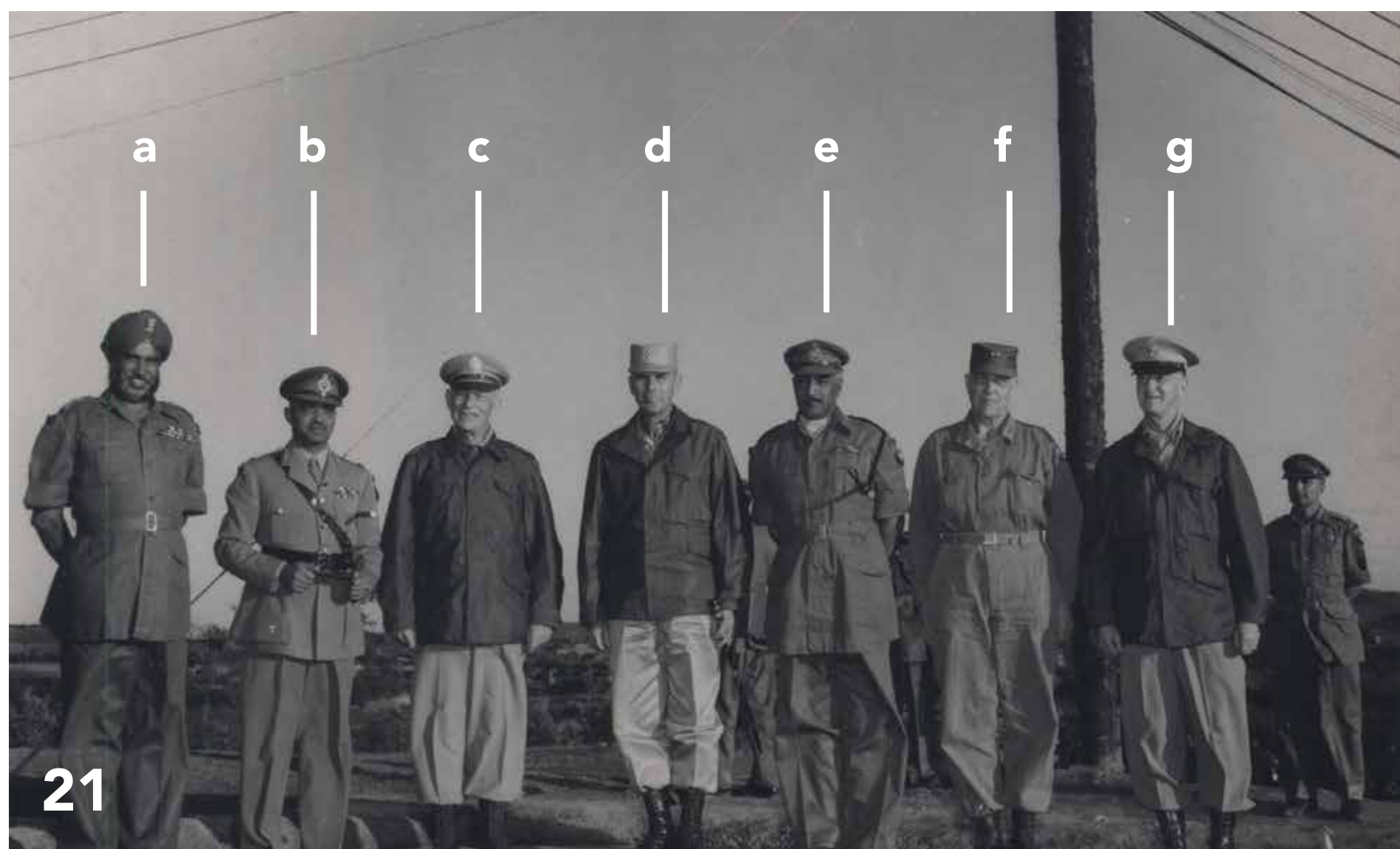
19

a,e Representatives of CPV
b Pavel Winkler
c Ladislav Šimovič
d,g Delegates of Poland
f Stanislaw Gajewski, Poland
P.W.



20

Ladislav Šimovič (on the left) and a Polish officer, P.W.



- a. Unidentified
- b. Lt. Gen. S.P.P. Thorat, Commander of Indian Forces in Korea
- c. Gen. John E. Hull, Commander of U. N. Forces in Far East from September 1953
- d. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Commander of Eighth United States Army in Korea
- e. Maj. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Chairman of the NNRC
- f. Gen. Thomas W. Herren, Commander of US Prisoner of War camps in Korea
- g. Gen. A. L. Hamblen, Commander of the U.N. Command Repatriation Group from September 1953.

Winkler from AFIO.



22, 23 - Officers of U. S. and Indian Army, Winkler from AFIO.

Lt. Gen. S. P. P. Thorat, Maj. Gen. K. S. Thimayya and Gen. John E. Hull, Winkler from AFIO.



Indian military transported to Panmunjom from Inchon, South Korea, by the U. S. Army, Winkler from AFIO.

26, 27 - Brig. Gen. Paintal with U.S. Army officers, Winkler from AFIO.



28, 29, 30 - Brig. Gen. Paintal with officers of KPA and CPV on construction site of barracks for Indian delegation (dated by Winkler September 1953) and the completed barracks, Winkler from AFIO.



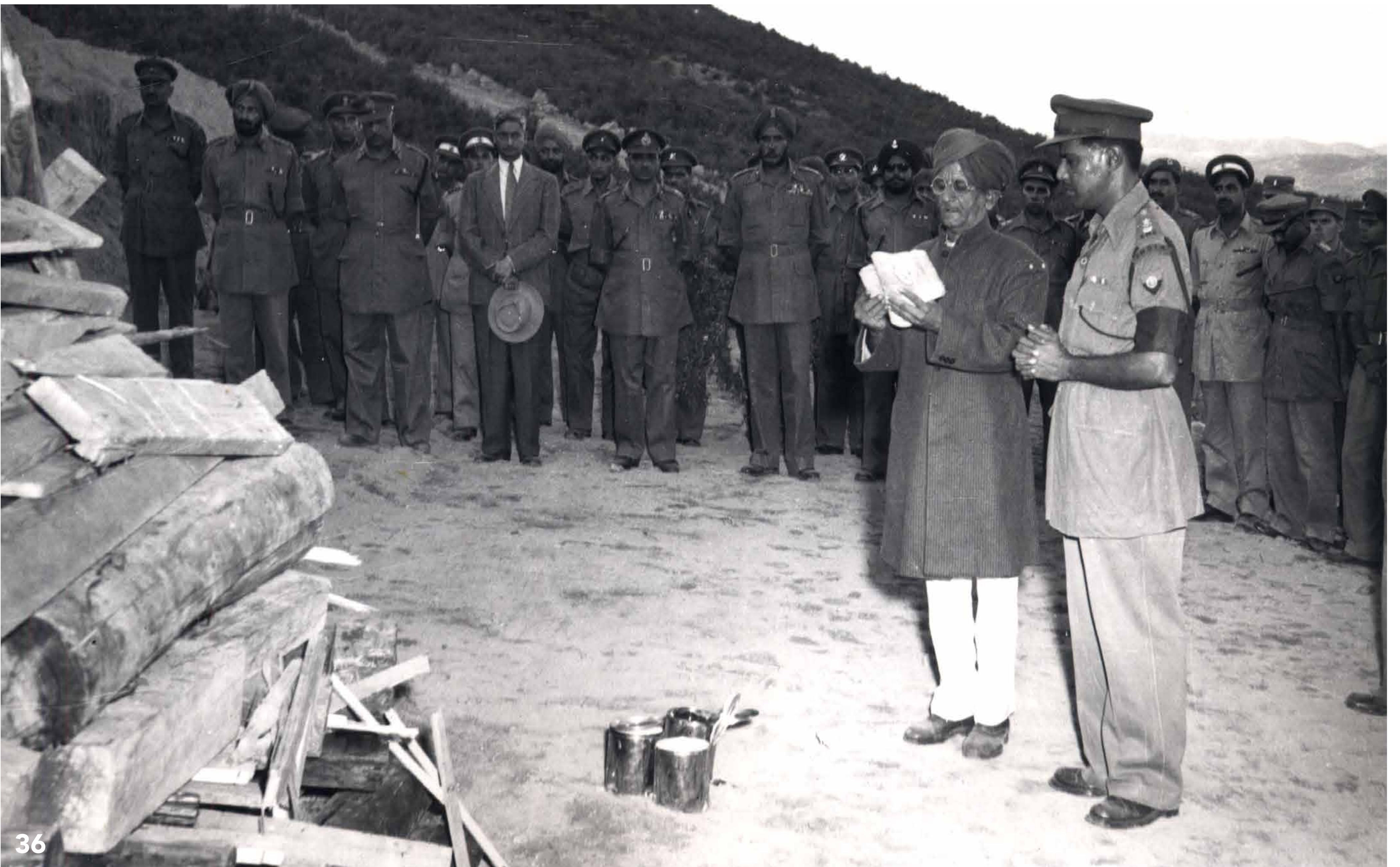
31 Lt. Gen. S.P.P. Thorat, Commander of Indian Forces in Korea (on the right) and Indian Military Attaché in Tokyo (on the left), dated by Winkler October 1953, Winkler from AFIO.



32 Polish delegation walking to the conference hall, P.W.

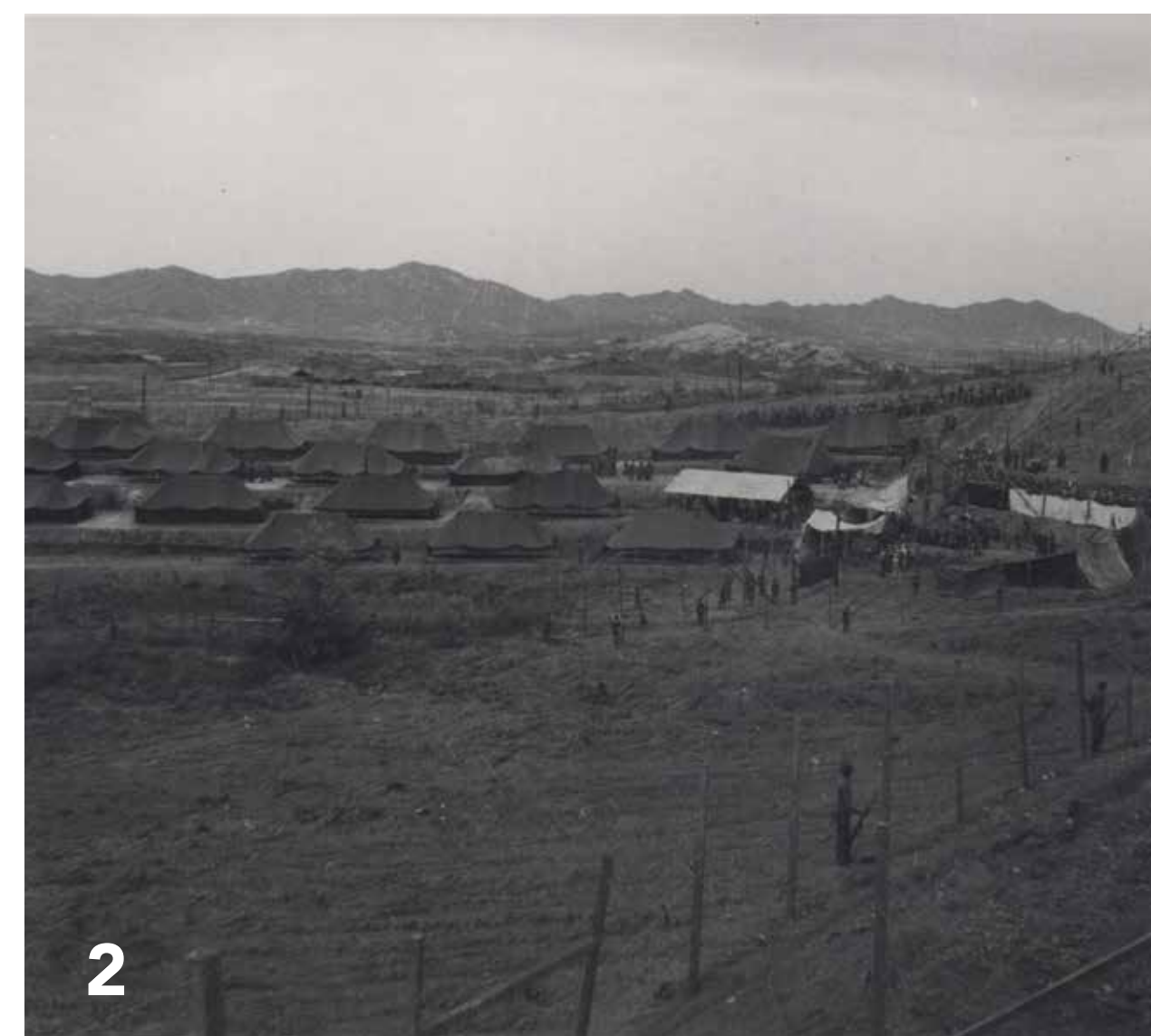


33, 34, 35 - Panmunjom conference area, P. W. (picture 33 and 34), Winkler from AFIO (picture 35).



36 Indian Funeral Ceremony in Panmunjom. Maj. Gen. Thimayya and B.N. Chakravarty in the center of the first row of funeral guests, Winkler from AFIO.

Tongjang-ni Camp



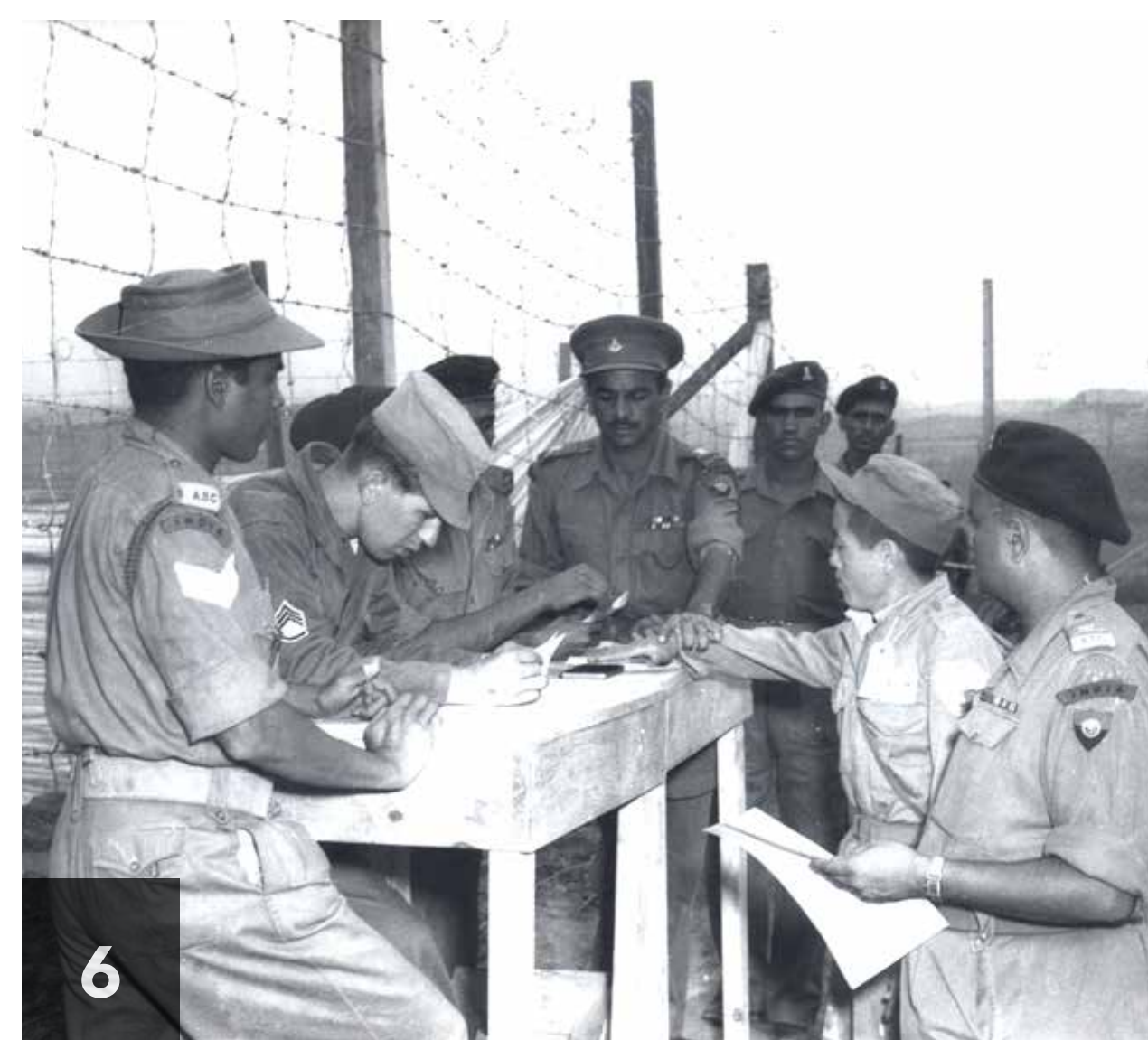
2, 3 - Scenery of the Tongjang-ni POW camp in the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). South Korean flag on a mast (picture 3). Winkler from AFIO.



Explanation Center in Tongjang-ni POW camp close to completion, dated by Winkler October 1953, Winkler from AFIO.



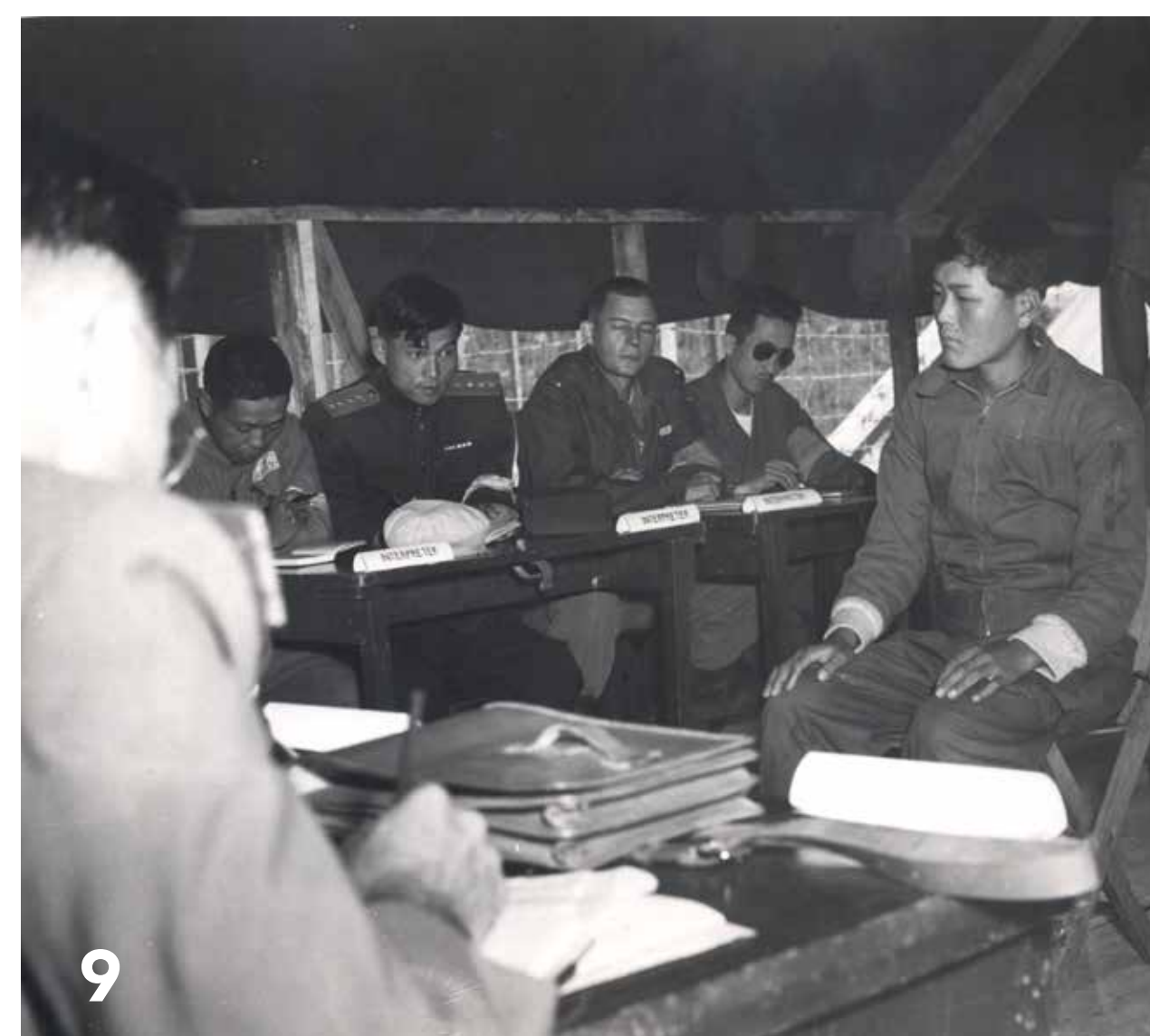
U. S. Army transfers the POWs to the Indian Army in the DMZ, probably Tongjang-ni, not confirmed. Dated by Winkler September 1953. Winkler from AFIO.



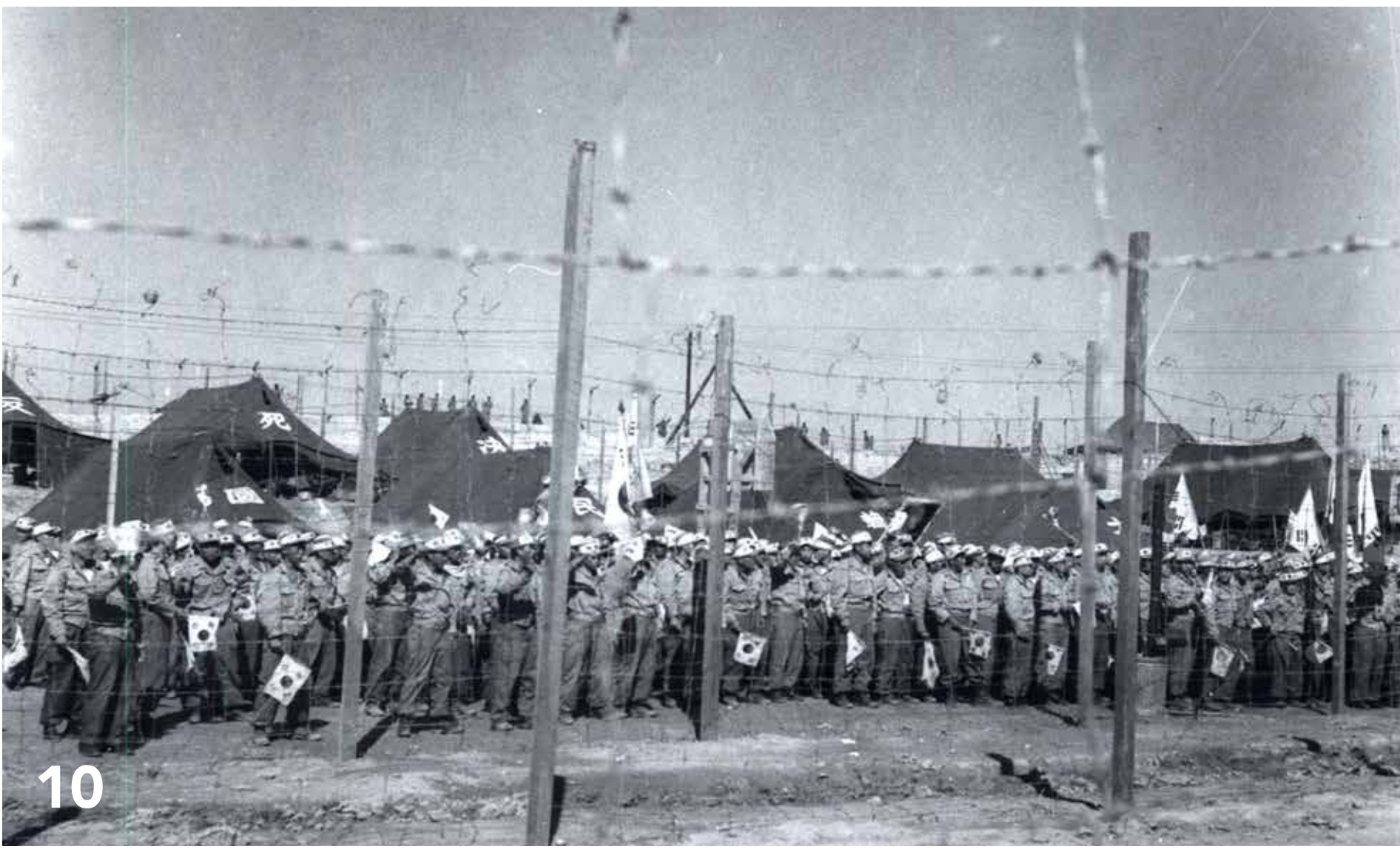
The Indian Army taking fingerprints of a POW, dated by Winkler September 1953. Winkler from AFIO.



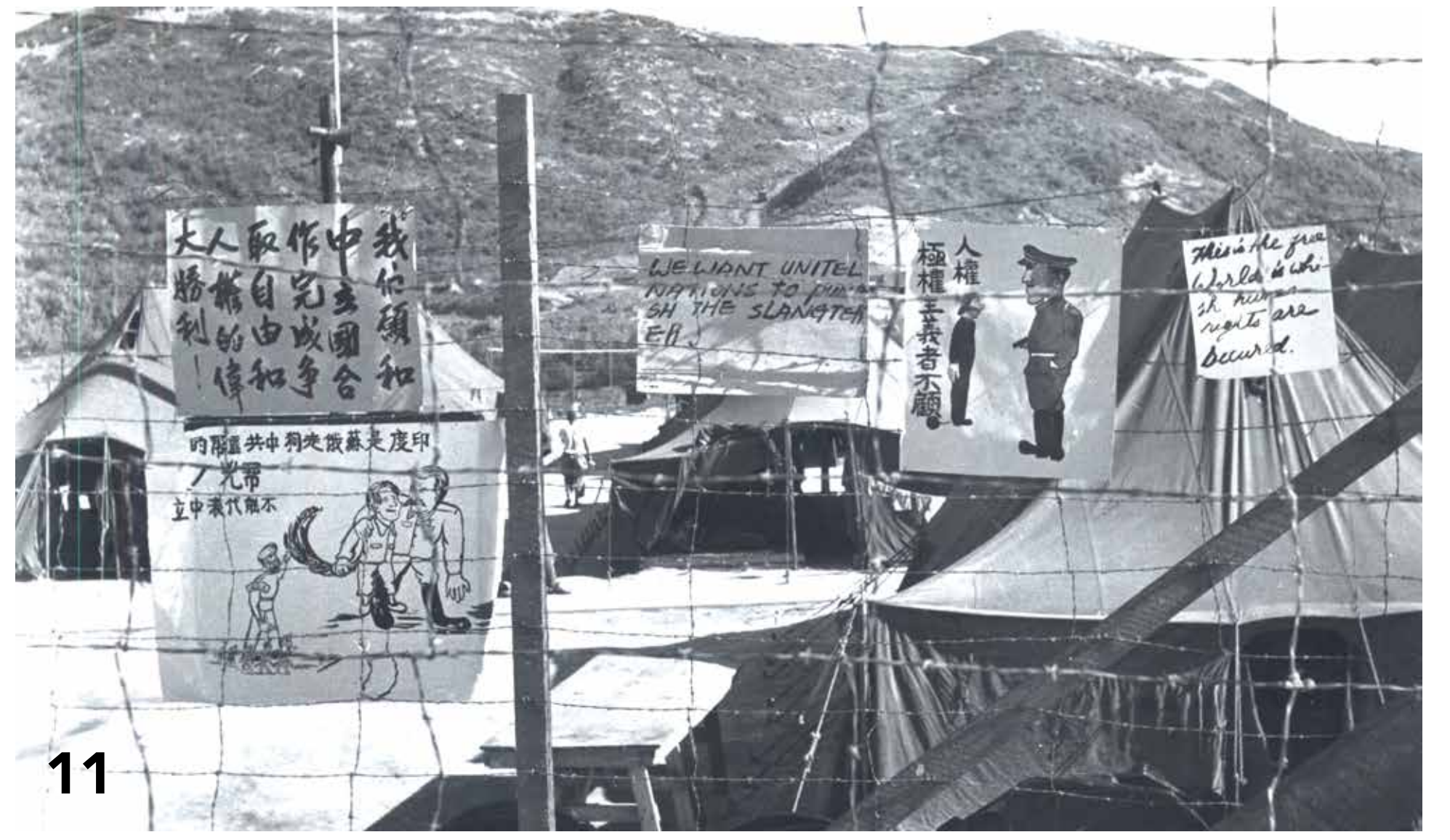
Maj. Gen. Thimayya inspecting the Tongjang-ni camp, dated by Winkler October 1953. Winkler from AFIO.



8, 9 - The NNRC interviewing a POW about his repatriation intentions in the Explanation Center (picture 8). The interpreters (from the left: CPV, KPA, U.N; picture 9). Winkler from AFIO.



10 POWs in Tongjang-ni demonstrating with South Korean flags, Winkler from AFIO.



11 Tensions and anti-communist protests in Tongjang-ni, Winkler from AFIO.



12, 13, 14 - Indian soldiers guarding the Tongjang-ni POW camp; South Korean flag on the watch tower (picture 14), Winkler from AFIO.



15 Wounded POWs, Winkler from AFIO.



17 Wounded POW; Kuomintang flag over a tent, Winkler from AFIO.



16 A POW presents himself for repatriation with a Kuomintang flag. Winkler from AFIO.



18, 19, 20, 21, 22 - Repatriation of POWs in Tongjang-ni; all pictures dated by Winkler September 1953, Winkler from AFIO.

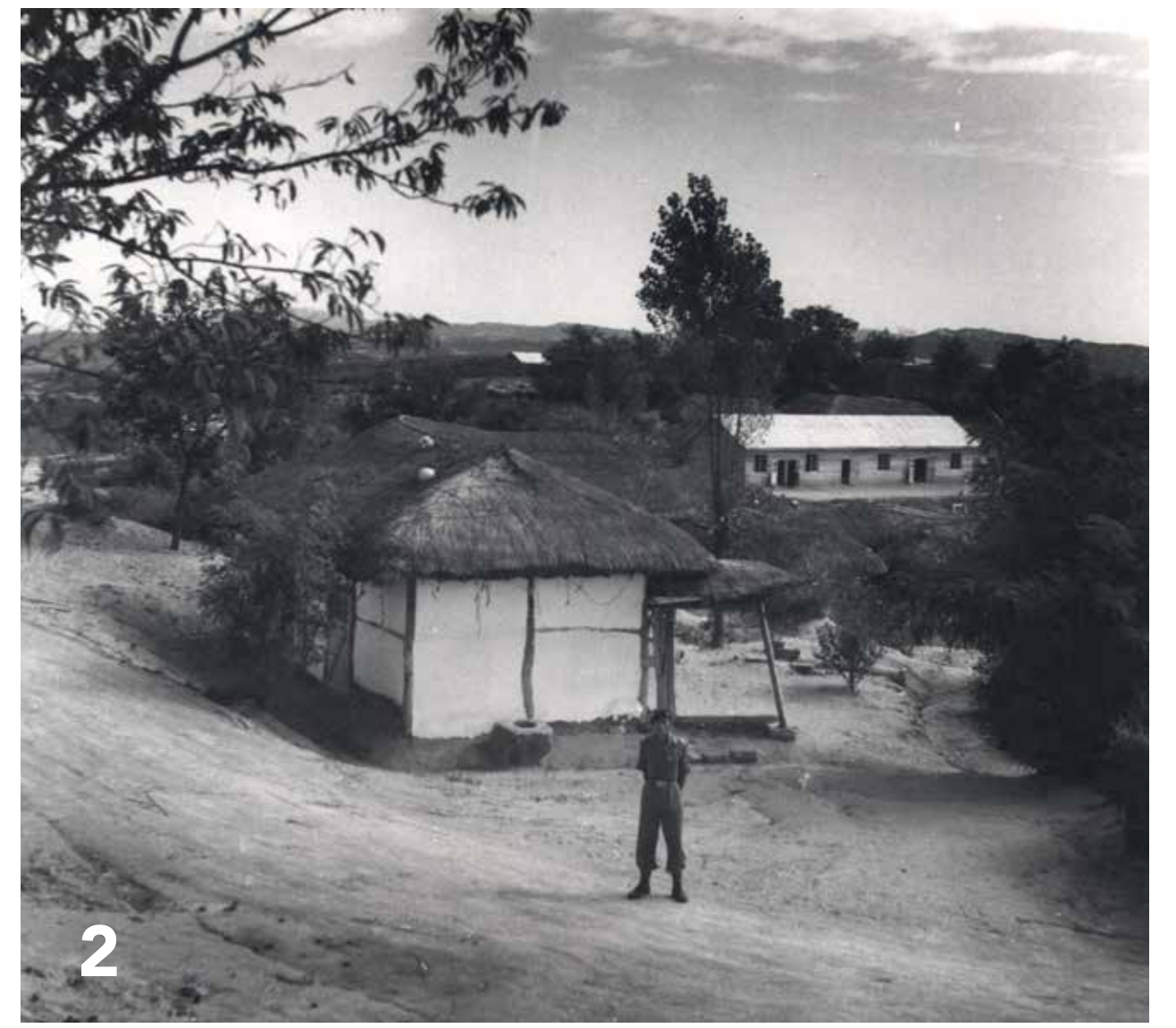


Songgong-ni Camp



1

1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 - Arrival of POWs in Songgong-ni camp, dated by Winkler September 1953. On a hill in the back (picture 1) are, according to Winkler, members of NNRC observing the action. Winkler from AFIO.



2

View of Songgong-ni camp, Winkler from AFIO.



3

Songgong-ni camp located in northern part of the DMZ; Explanation Center in front, Winkler from AFIO.



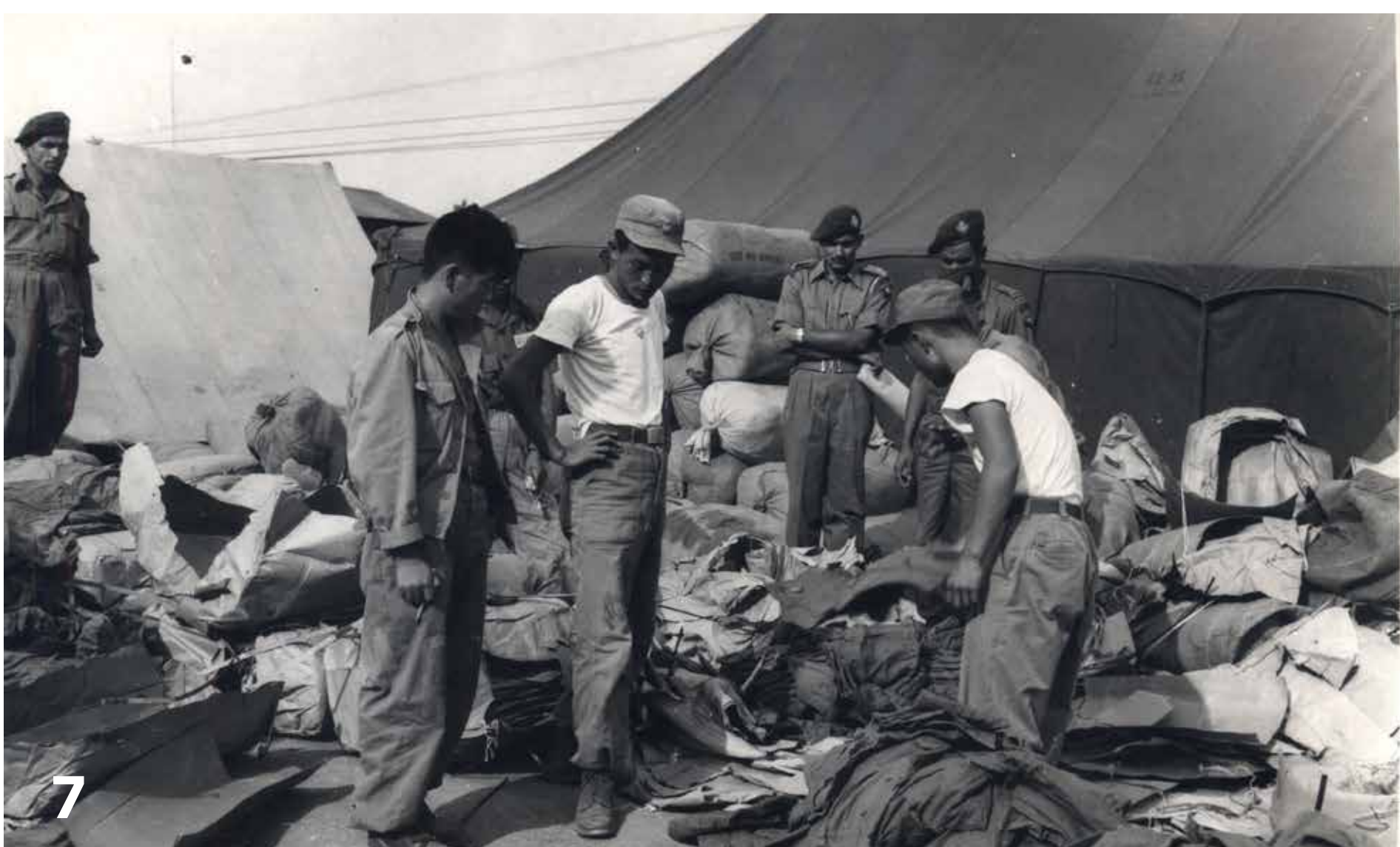
4



5



6



7



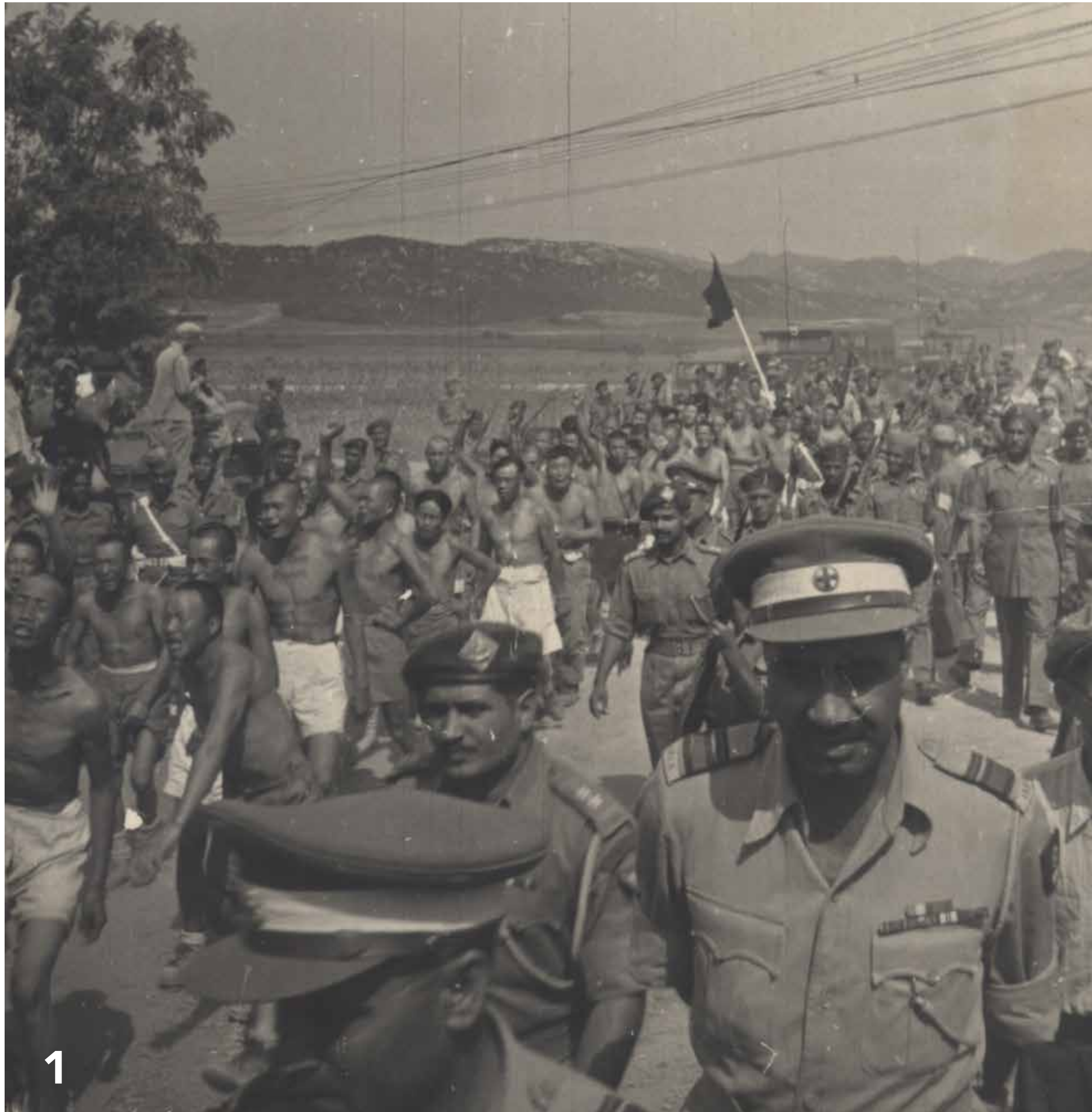
8



9, 10, 11 - Off-duty Indian soldiers, Winkler from AFIO.



The Repatriation Process



1

Indian soldiers accompanying the POWs, P.W.



2

POWs arrive at the Exchange Point where they will be handed over to the KPA/CPV. Winkler from AFIO.



3

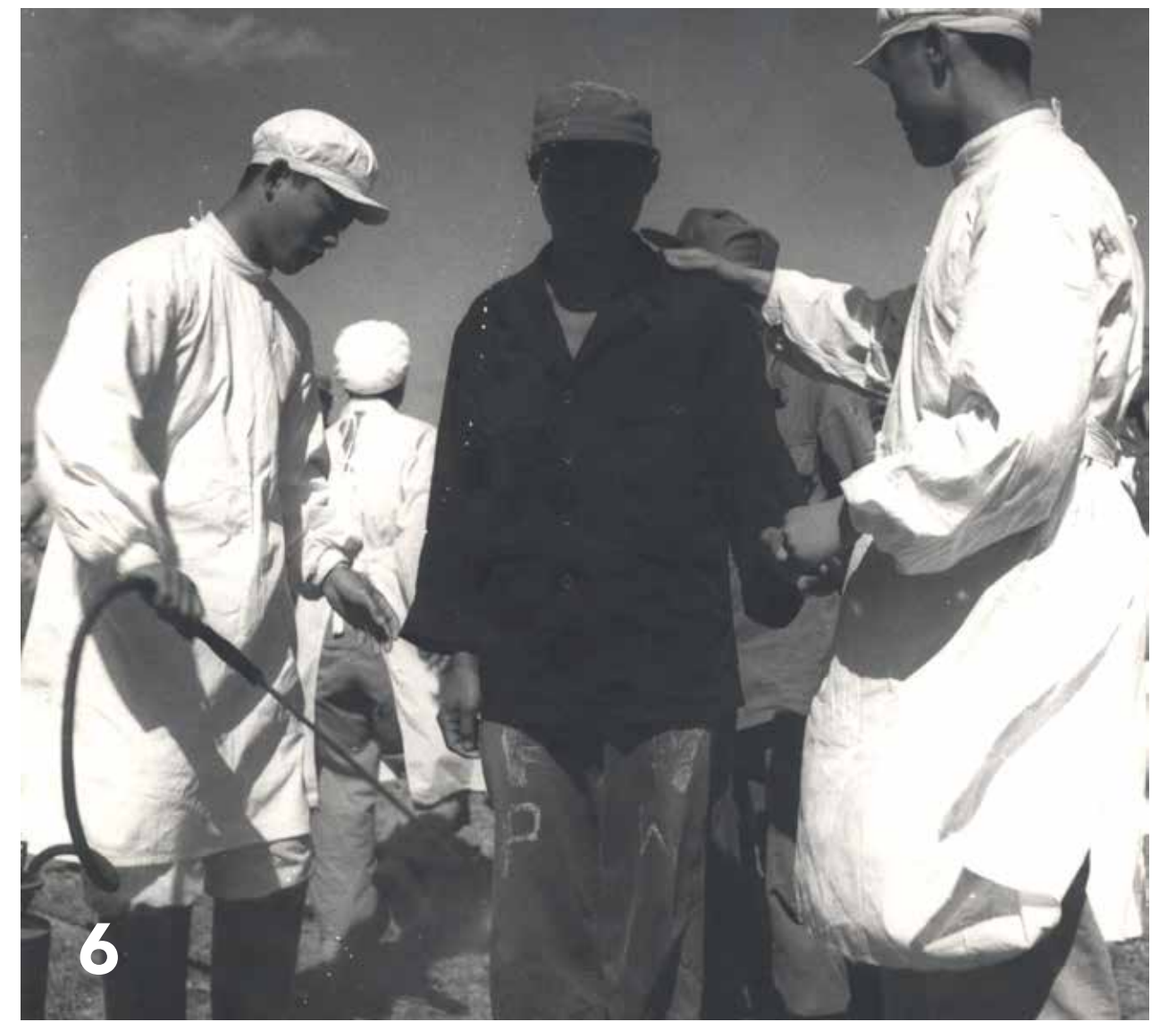
POWs in front of the officers of KPA/CPV. Observing in the back are members of NNRC (a Polish and a Czechoslovak officer). Dated by Winkler September 1953. Winkler from AFIO.



4



5



6

4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 - The Indian Army handing over POWs to the KPA/CPV, Winkler from AFIO.



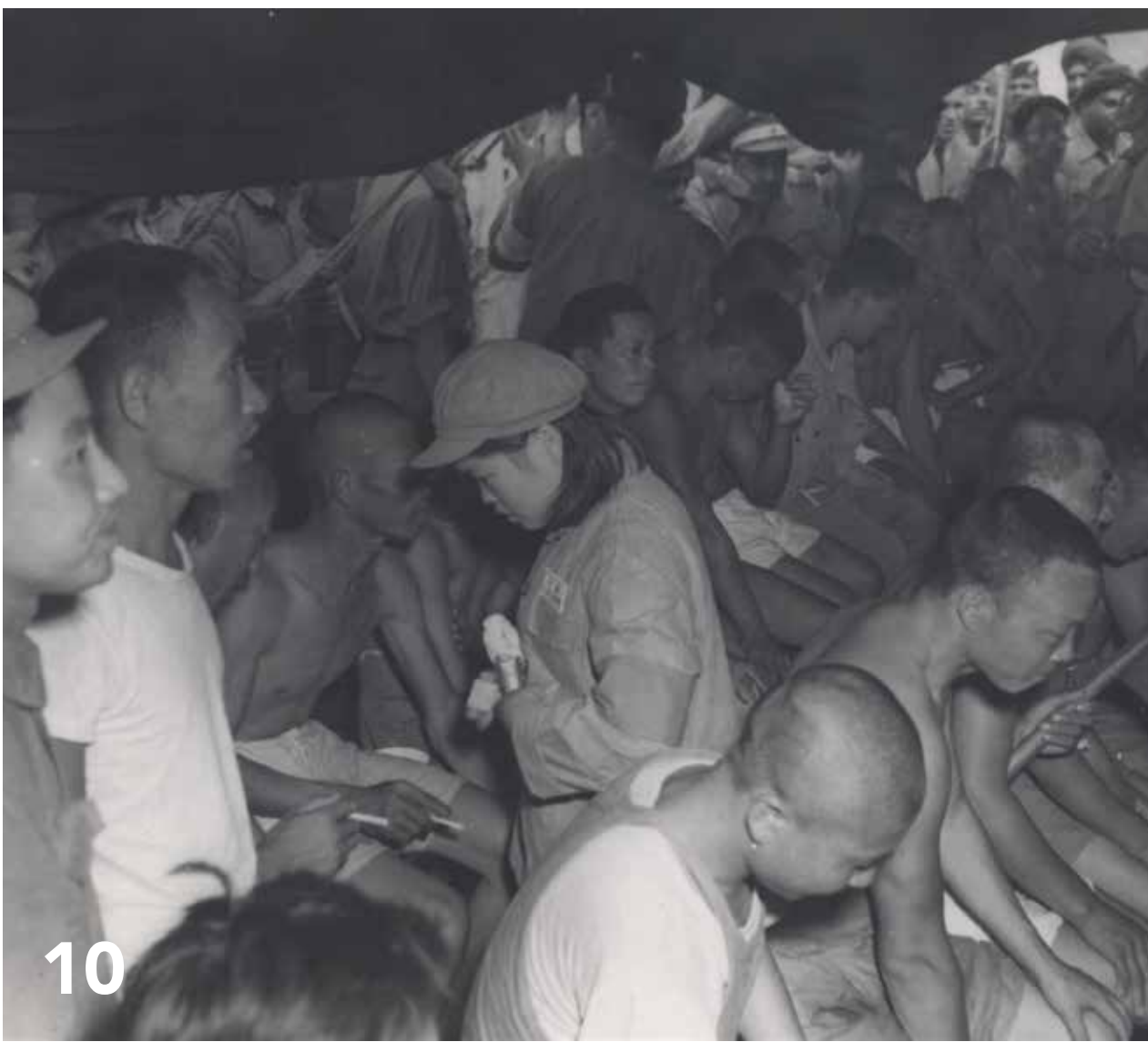
7



8



9



10, 11, 12 - POWs immediately after repatriation to KPA/CPV, dated by Winkler September 1953, Winkler from AFIO.



POWs leaving Panmunjom for Kaesong, Winkler from AFIO.

CPV women soldiers and a POW. According to Winkler, the site is Songgong-ni. Winkler from AFIO.

15, 16, 17 - POWs leaving Panmunjom for North Korea, P.W.





18



19



20

18, 19, 20 - POWs (Americans in picture 20) arriving at the Songgong-ni camp to be repatriated to North Korea, according to Pavel Winkler. Dated by Winkler September 1953. Winkler from AFIO.



21

Ladislav Šimovič and Pavel Winkler standing in front of the repatriation gate to North Korea in Panmunjom; North Korean and Chinese flags, P.W.



22

Ladislav Šimovič and Pavel Winkler with the "Pagoda of Peace" in the back, P.W.



23

Ladislav Šimovič, Pavel Winkler, and another member of the Czechoslovak delegation with a gift for their work.

Translation:
 "We deeply thank the Czechoslovak delegation to the Neutral [Nations] Repatriation Commission for its unwavering commitment to the Korean Armistice Agreement and peaceful resolution of the Korean conflict!"

P.W.