

tary were on trial in Japan for crimes against the world. The war-torn countries of Korea, China and Mongolia faced the future without Western support. In 1949, the few American soldiers that remained after escorting the occupational government out of power begged to leave Korea because of its impoverished conditions.

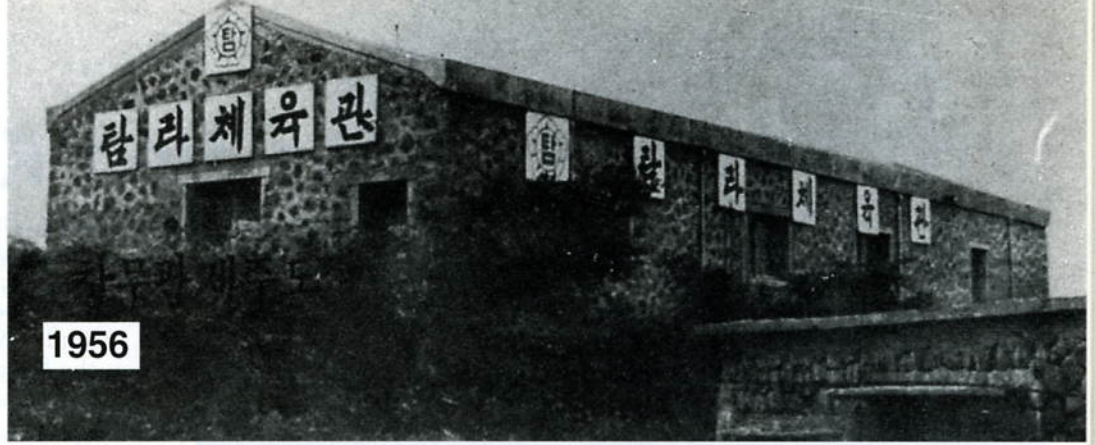
In December 1949, all American soldiers were ordered to leave Korea. By mid-1950, American soldiers stationed in Okinawa and Tokyo returned to Korea to fight the invading Chinese and Russian military. The Japanese government

“...Korean martial arts were providing money to the impoverished nation by training Americans.”

remained to manage the country when all the occupying Americans left to help the South Koreans defend the country against the invading North Koreans.

Chang Moo Kwan, meaning “institute for propagating the martial arts,” was founded in September 1946 by In Yoon Byung at a YMCA in Seoul. In Yoon Byung was born in 1918 and was trained in Kwon Bup. He was also known to be a student of Kanken Toyama from Shudokan Karate Do. In Yoon Byung became responsible for the organization that would one day be the foundation of Tae Kwon Do through one of his students. In Yoon Byung trained Nam, Suk Lee. Nam later took the name Kong Soo Do to describe his style. Later Nam used the name Tae Soo Do to identify the Chang Moo Kwan style of empty hand self-defense. Chang Moo Kwan’s second school was opened in the Ministry of Communications office of the Republic of Korea on March 5, 1947. Nam, Suk Lee was appointed a member of the governing body and taught the Chang Moo Kwan style of martial arts to its members. Korean Kwans became one of the most important institutions promoting the growth of Korean martial arts after World War II and they served to unify a fragmented and widely dispersed group of Korean instructors.

The Chang Moo Kwan was one of the first five Kwans founded during and after World War II. These five were followed by at least four more.



Chang Moo Kwan facility in Jaeju, Korea



President Nam Suk Lee (center) with senior Chang Moo Kwan members.



Nam Suk Lee (center, in suit) with General Choi, Hong Hi (left in uniform) and other Korean notables of the day.