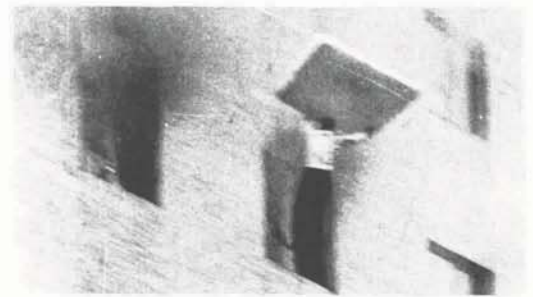


That Hotel Fire in Seoul!



Victim is helped down the ladder by members of fire department.



Hotel occupant jumps from window holding mattress. Some survived jumps from lower floors but forty died from falls or from jumping.



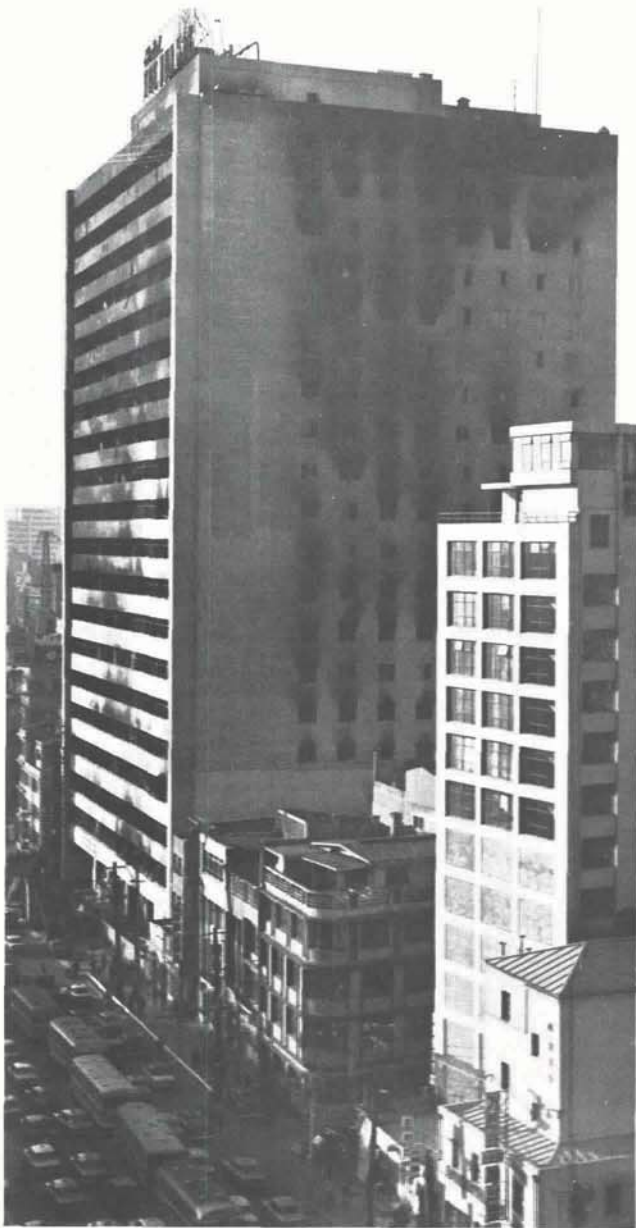
Fire initially spread through lower floors and the 21st floor. Middle floors were involved in the afternoon. Note streams from the 100-foot aerial and elevated platform.

ELWOOD Willey of the NFPA Fire Record Department flew to Seoul, Korea in January to gather information on the tragic Tae Yon Kak hotel fire that occurred December 25, 1971. His illustrated report of this important fire incident is scheduled for publication in the May, 1972 *Fire Journal*.

Through the medium of television the world was quickly informed of this major loss-of-life fire in which 163 fatalities occurred. Of these, forty died from falls or from jumping from the building. More than 100 occupants were rescued by the fire department or escaped from the building. Helicopters rescued six persons from the roof; others escaped from lower floors or by elevators and a few survived jumps from lower floors.

The twenty-one story and basement building was divided vertically into two occupancies: several business firms occupied floor space from the second to the twentieth floor; the hotel portion contained 223 guest rooms from the sixth to the twentieth floor. The building had a fire alarm system arranged to sound evacuation alarms in the office and hotel occupancies, but this system was not connected to the fire department. Heat detectors were in hotel guest rooms and manual pull stations were on each floor throughout the building. Standpipes with 2½-inch connections and hose were installed in the office and hotel occupancies.

Exact fire cause details are not known but an LP-gas fire started on the second floor in a coffee shop adjunct to the hotel lobby. A twenty kilogram (44 pound)



Tae Yon Kak Hotel after the tragic fire showing ravages of smoke and flame.

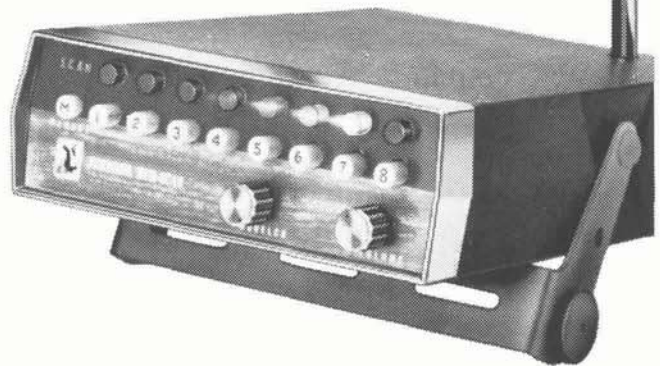
LP-Gas cylinder failed, spilling gas in the second floor coffee shop. The fire spread quickly through the coffee shop to the hotel lobby. Three waitresses died and a fourth was critically burned but subsequently rescued. Smoke and toxic gases soon filled the building as the fire progressed up the unenclosed hotel stairway to involve the third and fourth floors. Smoke and heat then spread throughout the building through air handling system ducts and vertical shafts.

The Seoul Fire Department received first alarm at 10:17 A.M. and from that time the fire burned through most of the building for six hours. Fire attack was concentrated from the outside using streams from elevating platforms and aerial ladders but, because of limited hydrant supply most streams were supplied from tank trucks.

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