

January 2, 1969

Letter, Korean Affairs Institute President Yongjeung Kim to UN Secretary-General U Thant, Concerning ROK's involvement in the Vietnam War

Citation:

"Letter, Korean Affairs Institute President Yongjeung Kim to UN Secretary-General U Thant, Concerning ROK's involvement in the Vietnam War", January 2, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, "International incidents and disputes - Korea - correspondence (603.1)," Executive Office of the Secretary-General, S-0196-0002-04, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section (UN ARMS), New York, NY. Obtained for NKIDP by Charles Kraus.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117251>

Summary:

Yongjeung Kim of the Korean Affairs Institute writes U Thant. Kim encloses his letter imploring Park Chung Hee to reconsider sending Korean soldiers to Vietnam and reliance on Washington's support for reunification and domestic affairs.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

603.1

KOREAN AFFAIRS INSTITUTE

"Dedicated to Freedom"

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



CABLE ADDRESS KOREAFAIR

~~2907 ELLICOTT STREET, N.W.~~
~~WASHINGTON 8 D.C.~~
3900 Watson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

I Smart

*Pl. see -
cc to Kurybani*

January 2, 1969

*cm
9/1*

Dear Sir,

As you are aware Korea is churning in the whirlpool of power struggle among the great nations. She has the potentiality of regenerating another holocaust which might engulf the whole of Asia. In this connection I am taking the liberty of enclosing herewith a copy of my recent message to General Park Chung Hee, President of south Korea; I thought it might be of interest.

If there is to be peace and prosperity in long-exploited Asia, its people must be free from foreign interference and interventions in their national affairs. I earnestly hope that you will find a way to help bring about the unity, freedom and independence of Korea so that peace may be promoted in Asia.

Very respectfully yours,

Yongjeung Kim
Yongjeung Kim

YK/mak

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary General of the United Nations
United Nations, New York

TIME

PLEASE PLEASE
FILL IN

OF SERVICE
(Rate unless otherwise marked)

FULL RATE

LETTER TELEGRAM (LT)

PRESS

TO ALL THE WORLD



TO SHIP AT SEA

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAM

NUMBER BY RCA	
DESTN. CODE	PREC. & CLASS IND.
ORIGIN CODE	WGRD CHARGE
ACC. CODE	CUST. CODE
CHECK	

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS KOREAN AFFAIRS INSTITUTE, 3900 Watson Place N.W., Washington, D. C.

TO BE FILLED
IN BY RCA

UR

DESTN. IND.

CLASS

CHG. WDS.

CHARGE AND ACCOUNT NO.

TO

via RCA

SENDER PLEASE SPECIFY ROUTE

INSERT "RCA"

December 16, 1968

General Park Chung Hee
President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Mr. President:

Although my suggestions for reuniting our country have been ignored, my Korean conscience compels me to solicit your attention once again to the perilous problem confronting us. It is a matter of our people prospering together or being destroyed by fratricidal conflict.

We are unfortunate victims of the "cold war." If we continue to take sides in this international power struggle, we will remain pawns.

Please forgive me if I seem too harsh but as a Korean I cannot help being apprehensive of present policies. Like other unpopular governments in Asia your regime has been desperately promoting an "anti-communist" line to stay in power with the support of American military forces and arms. Nevertheless, ultimately, none but the Korean people will decide the fate of their country.

No nation is free and independent under foreign protection. We should painfully recall that during the latter part of the Yi dynasty the opportunistic politicians then in power invited, successively Chinese, Russian, and Japanese protection. As a result, Korea lost her independence and, our people, their freedom.

If we are to be the masters of our house of Korea, we must resolve our internal disputes ourselves. Pinning our future to foreign patronage will not help us achieve our national unity, freedom and independence for which our people have sacrificed so much in blood, sweat and tears. The world will not respect us as a nation unless we maintain our self-respect.

May I remind you, Mr. President, that any leader who really loves his people and has their trust, has no reason to fear them. Rather, he inspires their loyalty by trusting them and respecting

(more)

their will and their rights. Then he need not beg for any foreign protection against his own people. We must not forget what happened to the Rhee regime.

We have exploited the good-hearted American people long enough. Nevertheless, our soldiers have been sent to fight in Vietnam to obligate Washington for continued support of your regime. Unfortunately, many Americans are still misinformed of the real motive behind the Korean participation in the Vietnamese war.

The Vietnamese people have never harmed us. Why should we kill them? Their country is divided like ours and they want to reunite their nation just as we do. We have no right to interfere in their family affairs, whatever their politics may be, at the expense of the lives of our young men in what is clearly a foreign civil war. Accordingly, our national conscience demands the withdrawal of our troops from the war-torn country to hasten the Vietnamese self-determination to bring about their unity and independence.

To fulfill our patriotic duty as Koreans I earnestly suggest that you exhibit your courage and your magnanimity by inviting Premier Kim Il Sung or his representatives to meet with you to discuss a way to bring about our national unity and independence. The leaders in the North have proposed such meetings on several occasions.

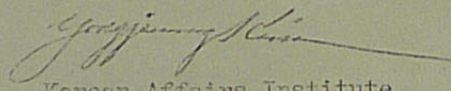
Arch-rivals like the Americans and the Russians and--the Germans on both sides of the fence--have been talking with each other on matters of common concern. Is there any reason why we Koreans cannot sit down and talk together for the well-being of our nation?

Making enemies of our own people and killing each other in order to stay in power with foreign support cannot be considered patriotic. Without a spirit of fraternity we cannot hope to carry out our supreme task of rebuilding our nation so that it may be united, free and prosperous. Each day's delay is a risk to our national existence.

I cannot believe that you or Premier Kim Il Sung wishes to go down in our history as a statesman who preferred to enjoy riches and power under foreign protection and failed to answer the call of his victimized fatherland.

As this grave national problem concerns all our leaders, I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this message to Premier Kim Il Sung of north Korea.

Yongjeung Kim



Korean Affairs Institute