

## **February 10, 1955**

### **Letter, General Taylor to President Syngman Rhee**

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#### **Summary:**

General Taylor emphasizes the important contributions the Korean National Railway has made toward the military effort and rehabilitation of the Korean civil economy. He informs Rhee that the US will soon reduce its rail supervisory personnel and the Korean government will now have to support and secure the future of the railway-including the new repair and replace program- to help maintain operation after the war.

#### **Credits:**

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**HEADQUARTERS**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, FAR EAST**  
 AND  
**EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY**  
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
 APO 343, San Francisco, California

10 February 1955

His Excellency, Syngman Rhee  
 President of the Republic of Korea  
 Kyung Mu Dai  
 Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. President:

During the past four and one-half years the Korean National Railways have made an important contribution to the military effort of Korea and the rehabilitation of the civil economy. The success achieved arose from the cooperative efforts of the Korean staff and of the American Railway personnel assigned to the railway. Considering the disadvantages under which the railway has operated, I consider that the results obtained deserve the highest commendation.

I should like to call to your attention that the Korean National Railways will soon enter a new phase of operation. The U. S. supervisory personnel presently with the railway will be reduced and by 1 July 1955 will consist only of a small advisory group under the U. S. Economic Coordinator.

It is the opinion of the American experts who best know the problems of the railway that positive measures should be taken now by the Korean government to assure the future financial support of the rail system. The burdens of the war have imposed a great strain upon the equipment of the railroad which will require a continuous program of repair and replacement in order to maintain operating capacity. The problem is enhanced by continuous loss through pilferage of essential operating supplies and equipment. Pilferage has plagued the road in the past and will continue in the future unless the new management is alive to the need of adequate police protection.

*Instructions to M. of Trans. National Police Feb. 12*



Because the full operating capacity of this railroad is so essential to meeting our military and economic needs, I feel justified in calling to your attention that the road is approaching a turning point. It is most important to all of us interested in the welfare of Korea that the change in management be effected without loss of efficiency or transport capacity.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR  
General, U. S. Army  
Commanding