

**March 2, 1954**

**Letter, Syngman Rhee to General James A. Van Fleet**

**Citation:**

"Letter, Syngman Rhee to General James A. Van Fleet", March 2, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-012-025, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/122638>

**Summary:**

Syngman Rhee expresses concerns about the American Korean Foundation's under-graduate scholarship program.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan



2nd March, 1954

Dear General Van Fleet:

I thought you might be interested to see the enclosed itinerary set up by KCOMZ for welcoming the Mercy Ship from the American Korean Foundation.

There is a small matter I think I should bring to your attention. We recently learned from a College President that the AKF is now planning to include under-graduate scholarships in its program. I am quite concerned that if this program is not worked out with the Government, many difficulties may present themselves. Our Government policy does not favor sending out under-graduate students for study abroad but insists they study English, etc., at home and leave for further study overseas at a more mature age.

Our political opponents are spreading the story that the AKF has no clause in its By-Laws which allows of co-ordination between the AKF and the ROK, and that this educational program will be carried out independently. If this is so, I am quite concerned about the difficulties the three American representatives who are coming out here will face, if they carry out their mission in this spirit.

I feel it my duty to tell you this as I know you understand our situation. I certainly do not wish to appear to be 'butting in' on AKF policy, but I would like you to have my personal view on this matter.

With my very good wishes to you and Mrs. Van Fleet.

Yours sincerely,

General James A. Van Fleet,  
c/o Korean Embassy,  
WASHINGTON, D.C..

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