

June 14, 1954

Letter, Preston Goodfellow to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Preston Goodfellow writes concerning industrial gems, tungsten, and confidential messages.

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M. PRESTON GOODFELLOW
2424 FOXHALL ROAD, N. W.
WASHINGTON 7, D. C.

June 14th, 1954

Dear Dr. Rhee:

Mr. M. E. Heiser of the Australian Gem Mining Company has been in to see me and tells a very interesting story which may not have reached your ears.

It seems in the period before the war the Japanese did a flourishing business in industrial gems. But, like in other instances, it was the very skillful Koreans who did the expert cutting and the Japanese made the profits.

Mr. Heiser informs me that between 10,000 and 15,000 Koreans could be employed in this work. It requires the machinery and building to get started which would cost between \$2,500,000 and \$3,000,000. Experienced people are available to supervise the installation of such a plant and train personnel.

Mr. Heiser has been informed by one of General Coulter's assistants, Mr. John E. Goodison, that the money would be forthcoming upon a request from you.

I shall be glad to follow through on this if you have any interest.

The Nathan third report is not available as yet. I shall try to get one. It was described in the New York Times today.

Mr. Byrne just came in from Byrne International, an engineering outfit. He says you are going to name a tungsten advisor and asked if I knew about it. I told him I knew nothing about any tungsten advisor.

I have a message from Mr. Han at the Embassy that "his government has notified him that if I have any confidential matters for you I should give it to him". I asked Mr. Han what individual in his government sent him such a message. He answered it was his government.

Dr. Rhee you and I from long experience know that written messages are very unsafe. Had I wished to put it in writing I would have done so in the first place. Certainly there would be no security in my mind other than in a direct talk with you. In

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intelligence assignments we use to say if two people had a secret that was just two. But when three knew the secret that was 111 or one hundred and eleven.

I expected that the tungsten proposal would have been of sufficient immediate interest to warrant at least a conference. In that event I would have had a chance to acquaint you with some late developments of importance.

The Chinese gentleman who looked after me in Formosa when I was a guest of the Generalissimo has been here and has given me a most interesting fill in from that part of the world. And of course things are moving rapidly on the Indo-China problem. It will shortly be fish or cut bait.

Congratulations on the result of the recent election and the favorable organization of the Assembly.

My best to Mrs. Rhee and your good self.

Sincerely,

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