

March 17, 1954

Letter, James H. R. Cromwell to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

James Cromwell reports that Harold Lady will not be granted a visa for entrance to Korea. Walter Robertson was very pleased by the Private Enterprise Plan, and Cromwell is working on a related resolution to present to the Republican Policy Committees.

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J. H. R. CROMWELL
2100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington 8, D.C.

March 17, 1954

Dear Mr. President:

According to my plans as set forth in my letter to you of March 11th I called upon Mr. Herter in Vice President Nixon's office concerning the clearance of Harold Lady. Mr. Herter told me that he had taken the matter up with several of the Republican officials of the State Department and that following a thorough review of the case, a unanimous decision had been reached that the State Department would not grant a visa to Harold Lady for entrance to the R.O.K. for the purpose of being officially associated with you.

I explained to Mr. Herter that because of my old and close friendship with John Stagers and because of your desire to have Harold Lady by your side, I would prefer to secure confirmation of this decision first-hand. Consequently I spent almost an hour and a half with Mr. Walter Robertson last Saturday morning and the greater part of our discussion concerned the case of Harold Lady.

I regret to say that Mr. Robertson confirmed everything that Mr. Herter had told me. Mr. Robertson, whom I truly believe is your good friend and admirer, assured me that he had made a new, complete and exhaustive research into the case of Harold Lady and that since the opinion of the officials of the State Department, - past and present, - was unanimously against granting the visa to Harold Lady, Mr. Robertson did not feel he had any valid reason for

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Seoul, Korea

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overruling this unanimous opinion. As I am sure you understand, the State Department has the right to assume an entirely arbitrary position with respect to granting a visa to any American citizen who wishes to assume an official position with a foreign government. I am afraid, therefore, dear Mr. President, that the case is closed and nothing further can be done.

Mr. Robertson was extremely pleased with the galley proof of the Private Enterprise Plan, which I gave to him, and has promised, as soon as the pressure on his time is relieved, to discuss this matter with me, as well as the subject of the expansion of the armed forces of the R.O.K.

I have not yet been able to discuss this latter subject with the Secretary of the National Security Council, Mr. Robert Cutler, because of the latter's absence from the city.

It was decided by Representative Shafer and other of our friends on Capitol Hill, that a Resolution should be presented to the Republican Policy Committees of the House and Senate which would provide that funds appropriated by the Congress should be expended for the purpose of creating a private enterprise economy in the R.O.K. We are working on this Resolution and should have it ready for presentation not later than the first of next week.

I sincerely hope that you took a really good rest at Chinae,



Dr. Syngman Rhee
Seoul, Korea

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and that you have returned to Seoul wholly refreshed in mind and
body.

As ever, your friend,

James H. R. Cromwell

JHRC:b

His Excellency
Dr. Syngman Rhee
The President
Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea