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May 8, 1956

Letter, Syngman Rhee to J. W. Staggers

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Summary:

Rhee explains his concerns about the American World Trade Export-Import company.

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8 May 1956

Dear Mr. Stagers:

I am pleased to receive your letter of 11 April. I think you were wise to settle the problem of litigation out of court. However, had the name of Korea come out in this connection it might not have been very serious because any inaccurate claims could have been denied by us, and all those who know us would realize they were untrue. But it certainly would not have been a good thing to have the names of Korea and Koreans unfavorably publicized.

As far as I am concerned, there is no one who can cause a rift in our friendship, as you suggest. As I told you before, when General Hodge was here we received a newspaper cutting from the United States reporting that you were setting up a Monopoly Company with me as a partner. At that time the Communists were trying to ruin us in every conceivable way and this report put me in a very difficult position, so I wired you asking you to correct it. You never did. If you had publicly stated that there was no Monopoly so far planned, it would have been all that was necessary, but you did not, nor did you write to me about it.

When you came over here, I told you I would like to see you and other good friends of Korea earn some money by starting a regular business Organization and when our Government gave out bids this Organization would be able to compete in the bidding and buying on a regular commission basis. It would help Korea if a good business operation made available the right kind of machines, goods and materials, because, as you know, we have not been in a position to buy what we wanted for ourselves.

I do not think you quite understand the situation. You say that if you start some business, some people will put out false reports against you. That is possible, of course, but so long as you do business in the correct way your friends can protect you against any such reports.

If you did not start the story which appeared in the press yourself, why did you not deny it? You would



- 2 -

then have helped me and I could have helped you.

I wish you would come out to see me as soon as you can. Harold Lady is going home very soon, as his father is not well.

In another letter to me of 12 April you recommend a representative of the Claude T. Lindsay, Inc.. I know very little about such matters unless the Ministers bring them to my attention, but I will find out more about this.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. John W. Stagers
508-511 Columbian Building
Washington 1, D. C.