

April 11, 1956
Letter, J. W. Staggers to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Staggers reports that the litigation of the Korean American Export-Import, Inc./American World Trade Export Import, Inc. has been settled out of court without reference to Korea or Col. Goodfellow.

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JOHN W. STAGGERS
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
508-511 COLUMBIAN BUILDING
WASHINGTON I. D. C.

April 11, 1956

The Honorable, Dr. Syngman Rhee
President, Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Dear Dr. Rhee:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the entire situation and advise that the litigation which grew out of the KOREAN AMERICAN EXPORT-IMPORT INC., the name having been changed later to AMERICAN WORLD TRADE EXPORT-IMPORT, INC., was settled out of court on April 9th. Had the case been tried by jury, I am of the opinion we could have won it. But, there were other factors to be considered. The outstanding one was to keep the name of Korea out of the litigation. By settling the case out of court, all references to Korea and Koreans were eliminated. The second factor was to keep Col. Goodfellow's name, if possible, from being used as he was in the service at that time. Had I alone been involved in the litigation, I would have fought it to a standstill. The cost to me in the litigation alone has been more than Five Thousand Dollars.

You will recall that after the Corporation was set up, false and misleading statements were put out by Communists and others which reached Korea very shortly after procuring the charter. You will also recall that you wrote me a letter following these reports, in which you stated they were becoming embarrassing to you. And, even after the litigation started here in Washington, some of my enemies made false and distorted reports about me which were forwarded to you for the sole purpose of creating a rift in our friendship.

Referring to the changing of the name of the Corporation, General Hodge had issued a statement that no American Corporation would be permitted to do business in Korea during the Occupation of the Army. Due to the Company not being permitted to do business in Korea at that time was the reason for changing the name of the Corporation and later dissolving same.

When the organization was first discussed, you stated that you wanted some of your friends whom you could trust and who had been friends for many years to participate. You did not want to see a company or an organization set up that would be used to exploit Korea, but one that would give Korea a good and honest representation. Your friends mentioned at the time were Col. Goodfellow, Jaye Jerome Williams, Mrs. L. E. Engels, Ben C. Limb and myself.



Dr. Syngman Rhee

- 2 -

April 11, 1956

Recently, I have been asked by several friends why I did not set up and develop a company to do business in Korea. My experience to do something along this line has been an expensive one. I feel sure that any effort made on my part along this line would again be used to put out false reports against me.

For sometime, I have been trying to dispose of some real estate as I am property poor. At the present time, I have very good prospects for doing so. As soon as this has been accomplished, I will then be ready to make a trip to Korea.

With kind personal regards to you and Madame Rhee, I am

Yours sincerely,


J. W. STAGGERS

JWS:dgo

Letter No. 116