

January 26, 1951

Letter, Harold Lady to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Letter, Harold Lady to Syngman Rhee", January 26, 1951, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-017-015, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/122974>

Summary:

Harold Lady writes regarding his decision to leave Japan because of issues with the State Department.

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



159 Minami
Senzoku, Otaku
Tokyo, Japan
January 26, 1951

Dear President Rhee,

Subject: Personal

I have not yet received a formal response to my application to SCAP of which I wrote you some two months ago. However, today Colonel Erlenbusch, who is in charge of such matters, showed me a draft of the reply scheduled to be delivered to me sometime next week. It states that I am welcome to stay in Japan if my purpose is to practice a profession or engage in business, but existing Japanese laws of immigration do not provide for a foreigner to reside in Japan for the purpose of serving the government of a third country.

He clearly implied that this decision was not to the liking of SCAP and had been forced by the State Department which was also responsible for the unreasonable delay in acting on my application. He gave me the impression that if I opened an office as a consultant in Tokyo, serving the general public, no objection would be raised by SCAP if, after a short interval, the Korean Government became one of my clients.

After serious thought, I have decided to return to the United States. We plan to sail in about two weeks. Diana is having eye trouble, and the doctors have recommended surgery which I would not care to entrust to a doctor in Japan. If I remain in Japan under the present ruling, my effectiveness in working for Korea will be somewhat limited. There may be further State Department interference, and I may be in even greater danger than in the past of being prosecuted under the Logan Act, an American law providing three years in jail and a fine for any citizen who makes a recommendation to a foreign government with the intent of impeding or contravening American policy. It is very difficult to understand present American policy.

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Possibly a visit to Washington will enable me to straighten out all my problems, especially those involving the State Department. It would surely be well to renew my Washington contacts. While Washington is my home, I have spent only about six months there since Pearl Harbor.

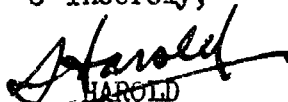
Recently the Office of the Secretary of Navy and the Headquarters of the Air Force have both asked that I consider an executive position. If open war with Russia comes, my proper place would be in the service of my own Government. If the general world situation remains unchanged, I may return to Tokyo within a few months to engage in business as there are excellent opportunities here. If Mr. Acheson is fired or my Washington activities are completely successful, it should be possible for me to return to Korea.

After many months of unsuccessful effort to find a capable American to work for you in Korea, I am pleased to report that I have been able to interest Mr. George T. Walker in the position. He has for the past two weeks been endeavoring to obtain a visa so that he may report to you for interview. Attached is a memo concerning Mr. Walker.

The fact that I have been prevented from being of significant help to you and to Korea during the war has been the bitterest disappointment of my life. I still hope that it will be possible for me in some way to make the contribution to Korea's future which it has been my ambition to accomplish. My many Korean friends, living and dead, can never be far from my thoughts, and wherever I may be I shall try to avail myself of every opportunity to help the Korean cause.

You and Madam Rhee occupy a very special place in my heart, and I hope you will call on me without hesitation whenever there is anything I can do for you personally.

Sincerely,


HAROLD