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Letter, Harold Lady to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Harold Lady forwards a proposal from Ed. Steiner & Co. for a rice enrichment program.

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Dear President Rhee:

Subject: Rice Enrichment Program

Attached is a proposal from Ed. Steiner & Co., Ltd., of Switzerland, which has a branch office in Seoul, for the institution in Korea of the F. Hoffmann-La Roche rice enrichment program. They state that it will require an initial expenditure of about \$550,000 for equipment and \$1,000,000 every year thereafter for vitamins. Necessary funds could probably be obtained from the FOA or UNKRA.

Offsetting this expense to some extent would be a saving of part of the foreign exchange now being expended for drugs and vitamins for treatment of existing illnesses. However, the economic justification for a rice enrichment program is the increase in national production which could be expected as the result of the improved health and vigor of the general populace.

Rice enrichment would appear to be more important now than in the past because rice now forms a larger percentage of the Korean diet. If adoption of such a program for the entire country is deemed impracticable at this time, consideration might be given to enriching the rice supplied to the military forces.

It is suggest that the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs be instructed to study this matter and furnish you with its recommendations.

Harold
HAROLD WENDELL LADY

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Lady
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