

## **February 24, 1955**

### **Letter, Harold Lady to Syngman Rhee**

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Harold Lady recommends developing a plan for improving Korea's truck transportation system.

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English

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Memo No. 23

February 24, 1955

Dear President Rhee:

Subject: A Truck Transportation Program

Truck transportation will present an increasingly difficult and important problem in the years to come. The development at this time of a five-year plan for improving and expanding this part of the national transportation system might result in large savings in foreign exchange, increased efficiency, and an addition to the military potential.

Some of the elements of the problem are:

- 1) Most of the trucks at present in use were built during the World War II period. Hence, they will tend to wear out and require replacement all at the same time.
- 2) They are already of an age when they require heavy and continuous expenditures for maintenance and repairs and consume excessive amounts of fuel and lubricants.
- 3) Because they represent models that have long been discontinued, securing replacement parts will become increasingly difficult and expensive.
- 4) Having been originally designed for military use, they are not ideal for civilian purposes and consume more fuel and lubricants than trucks suited for the work in which they are employed.

Among the matters which Government planners might well consider are:

- 1) The number of new trucks per year that will be required (a) for replacements and (b) for meeting the demands of an expanded economy,
- 2) How the necessary foreign exchange will be obtained.
- 3) Whether, in the interest of reducing the number of repair parts that must be stocked and simplifying maintenance and repair problems, it would be well to designate several designs



of trucks as standard and permit importation and/or manufacture of no others; for example: 1 jeep type, 1 light truck, 1 medium truck, and 1 heavy truck, each of a set basic engine and chassis design subject to no drastic changes for a period of five years.

4) Whether it would be better to standardize on trucks with diesel or gasoline motors.

5) Whether it would be better to purchase trucks complete or to establish assembly plants in Korea and import the trucks in knocked-down condition.

6) Whether a program should be started to manufacture in Korea an increasing percentage of the components of the trucks.

7) The extent to which the Government should engage in importing, assembling, manufacturing and operating trucks and the extent to which this should be handled by private enterprise.

It is suggested that it might be advisable to establish a seven-man committee to study this problem and that the committee membership might appropriately consist of representatives of:

Ministry of Commerce (2)

Ministry of Rehabilitation (2)

Ministry of National Defense (1)

Ministry of Transportation (1)

Ministry of Finance (1)

*Harold*  
Harold Wendell Lady