

December 17, 1956
**Report No. 104 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

Citation:

"Report No. 104 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", December 17, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-001, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123157>

Summary:

Syngman Rhee discusses his meeting with Philippines' Vice Minister of Commerce and Industry and President Magsaysay's visit plan to Korea.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

port No. 104

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

December 17, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

A serious rift in the Philippine representation in the United Nations erupted with the appointment of Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Ambassador to Washington as the chief representative to the UN Security Council. Ambassador Felixberto Serrano, permanent delegate to the General Assembly, felt stinging personal affront against him because he considered that the reward was given to a less deserving person. It is reliably informed that Romulo's appointment was influenced by Washington, and Mr. Magsaysay has to face strong opposition from Batangas Senator Jose P. Laurel and Serrano's admirers. Serrano's failure to land the Security Council assignment came as a surprise to the foreign office and congressional circles. The feud between the two gentlemen is so intense that Serrano made it known to his home office of his intention to quit if Romulo should overstep in the UN precincts.

The press supports President Magsaysay's appointment of Romulo as a wise move above petty politics. Vice President Garcia announced that the Philippines would oppose Red China's bid for UN membership on the ground that the Philippines still recognized Nationalist China. The Philippines supports Japan, Korea, and Vietnam for entry into the United Nations.

The Philippine Government accorded General Il Kwon Chung full military honors from the time of his arrival till his departure. He was cordially received by President Magsaysay who took keen interest in the defense setup of our country, and the general made a fine impression on the high government officials and ranking officers of the Philippine Armed Forces. His week-long visit helped augment closer relations on the political as well as military level between the two countries.

Do Soon Chung, Vice Consul was assigned to the general as military attache on many occasion during his visit.

The Philippine Legion of Honor (degree of commander) was awarded to the general in recognition of his great concern for the welfare of the Philippine expeditionary forces that fought in the Korean war. This is the first time a decoration was awarded to a Korean soldier by the Philippine government. We are all proud of it.

The reception honoring the general was well attended inspite of uncertain weather in the evening. The Philippine Armed Forces tendered a reception following the review of the armed forces and the pinning ceremonies. Honoring the general, a black tie dinner

- 2 -

was given at the legation residence where the chairman of the Senate and House Armed Forces Committee, the Defense Secretary, ranking officers of the Philippine and American Armed Forces and their ladies were invited.

In reference to Romulo's speech which appeared in the Pacific Stars and Stripes, nothing has been mentioned about Korea in connection with enumerating U.S. allies such as the Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan and perhaps, Japan. I will request the foreign office to send me, if possible, a copy of the full text of Romulo's speech at the Union League Club. Sometimes, the press is responsible for omission or errors. I shall make full report on this matter as soon as findings are completed.

Senator Claro M. Recto, announced his decision to enter the 1957 political arena as Nacionalista candidate for presidency if nominated at the forthcoming poll next May or June. He is avowed critic of the present administration. He declared "if we have to attain a balanced prosperity, in the rural and urban areas alike, the economic ills of the Philippines can be relieved."

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency, Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea,
Seoul, Korea.

Copy sent to Acting Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho.

P.S.

In reference to the projected state visit of President Magsaysay, I have fully informed you in my Report No. 102 that it is not quite certain when the President would be able to set the date for his state visit to Korea. Therefore, it would be advisable to withhold extending an official invitation from our Foreign Office until his acceptance of the invitation is reasonably assured.

with Park
19/12

Y.K.