

December 7, 1956
**Report No. 103 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

Citation:

"Report No. 103 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", December 7, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-009, 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/123161>

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



Report No. 103

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

December 7, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The Philippine-American military bases negotiation talks were suspended by the unilateral action of the United States panel, it was charged by the Philippine panel chairmaned by Vice President Carlos P. Garcia. At a plenary session of the PI-US military bases renegotiation in the afternoon of December 5, 1956, U.S. Minister Horace H. Smith, acting chairman of the U.S. panel declared that a recess had become necessary so as to permit a re-examination of the whole situation by both sides. Karl Bendetsen, chief negotiator, and his advisors left for Washington the following day, December 6. The Philippine negotiators felt very sore about the way the U.S. panel called off the meeting without prior consultation with the counterpart- the Philippine side.

The PI-US military bases negotiation talks had been dragged along the last four months of discussion and exchange of views. There are many issues of military strategy that cannot be solved so easily in the light of the present turmoil now erupting in Egypt and Syria. In my opinion, the revision of military bases in the Philippines will remain status quo until after the 1957 presidential election here. It is so delicate that any wrong move made by either side might jeopardize the security of the mutual defense in the Philippines. However, the Philippine panel has been disappointed in the failure of reaching a compromising basis by which the dignity of a sovereign nation be respected.

Reactions of Congressional leaders are sharp on the sudden recess in the renegotiation talks: Senate leaders denounce the U.S. position which they feel would violate Philippine sovereignty and jurisdiction. The Philippines can never barter an inch of territory or right in the interest of friendship. House leaders view the recess with misgiving. Acting Speaker Daniel Z. Romualdez cautioned the house members against hasty irritating statements on the suspension of the talks. The Washington officials said that the talks could be resumed after a period of reconsideration and evaluation of the problem by both sides.

To implement the Magsaysay-Nixon statement on the respect of the Philippine sovereignty last July, the United States turned over to the Philippine government title and claim papers to 199,570 hectares (2 1/2 acres per hectare) of land which were held by the United States for military bases. The areas mentioned for diplomatic and consular establishments containing an



- 2 -

area of 41 hectares will be retained by the U.S. The price for all the land returned to the Philippines is estimated at \$90 million dollars.

The specific proposals on the revision which the Philippines advanced to the U.S. panel on military bases negotiation are: 1) enforcement of Philippine laws within the bases such as taxation, currency, foreign exchange and immigration; 2) bases lease of 99 years be reduced to 25 years; 3) waive of U.S. jurisdiction in the bases and 4) inclusion in the agreement of a provision of U.S. assurance of automatic retaliation in case the Philippines is attacked.

James M. Langley, publisher of the Concord, New Hampshire, is reported to be considered as the U.S. Ambassador to succeed the late Albert F. Kufer who died suddenly of heart attack last November. Langley was the factor in the conclusion of the Trade Revision Act which gave the Philippines the right to levy scaled tariff on the American imports to the Philippines beginning July 1, 1955. With the imposition of custom duties on the American goods, the revenue has been increased.

Assistant Secretary of State Walter Robertson is scheduled to arrive here on December 16 and the following day American Ambassador to Formosa Karl Rankin will arrive in Manila for a few days' visit.

President Magsaysay planned a series of breakfast conferences with the legislative leaders in an effort to insure closer cooperation between the executive department and Congress. All the important matters are discussed at the breakfast table where the administration leaders and legislators thresh out differences before taking them up to the Congress which will convene on January 29, 1957.

The Filipino importers of Japanese machinery and goods on the reparations payments expressed fear that the Japanese industrialists juggled the prices as much as fifty percent increase since last summer when the Philippine-Japan reparations agreement went into effect. The Filipinos claimed that the total reparation payment would be actually reduced to \$275 million from the original \$550 million because of the average 50 % hike in price. The Filipinos will learn more of Jap's tricky manipulation in prices as time goes on.

2cc
Vsc. 12
Young Kee Kim
Syngman

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