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December 8, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

Citation:

"Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho", December 8, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-016, 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/123164>

Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the Guatemala Goodwill Mission, which is to promote friendly relations between Guatemala and other Asian countries.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

M. H. R.

December 8, 1956

Dear Mr. Minister,

A three-man goodwill mission from Guatemala arrived here several days ago to promote friendly relations between Guatemala and other Asian countries. The mission is headed by Minister of Education Enrique Quifiones, and accompanying him are Mr. Jose Luis Mendoza, President of the International Organizations of Guatemala, and Mr. Adolfo Orantes Molina, Dean of the Official Colleges of Law of Guatemala.

The Guatemala Goodwill Mission is scheduled to arrive in Seoul via CAT flight number 104 in the afternoon of December 17, and leave Korea on December 19. I am informed that his visit to Korea has been pre-arranged through the Guatemalan embassy in Washington in consultation with Ambassador Yang. The Mission will visit Hongkong, Taipeh, and Tokyo en route to Korea, and the Minister of Education carries a personal message from the Chief Executive of Guatemala to President Rhee. I assured them that our government will extend a cordial welcome to the members of the Goodwill Mission. Mr. Mendoza related to me the happy occasion of his meeting Ambassador and Mrs. Yang on their visit to Guatemala last summer. Mendoza added that the people and government of his country have a high esteem for our President for his magnificent leadership in the fight against the Communists—the menace of the world. Minister Quifiones cannot speak English and Dr. Molina interprets for the chief of the Goodwill Mission. The Mission expressed their government's desire to support Korea's bid for UN membership in the UN General Assembly.

*4 Copies
to Education
Min. Sec.
Opt.
Secretariat*

Handwritten note on left margin

Dr. I.C. Fang, Director of the Regional Office of the World Health Organization called on me with a view of soliciting a fund from our government toward the construction of a regional headquarters building in Manila. The Philippine government offered the organization a piece of land containing an area of 36,000 sq. ft. and a sum of P500,000.00 for the construction of the building. It is estimated that the project will cost in the neighborhood of one million pesos of which one-half million pesos is expected to be raised by voluntary contributions from Member States bordering the Western Pacific.

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Dr. Fang said that many governments have pledged to support the building program for the regional headquarters to house local offices of the United Nations. Although no commitments have been made, assurance has been given that voluntary contributions will be favorably considered by Member States. He further stated that if our government contributes a sum of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) toward the building fund, it will help reach the goal of raising the building fund. As Korea is a full-fledged Member State, she is under obligation to share the responsibility in the discharge of members' duties.

I shall appreciate it if you will kindly let me know what is our government's desire in this matter. Attached herewith is a copy of the aide-memoire prepared by the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila.

Having received your radiogram confirming the acceptance of an invitation by General Il Kwon Chung to visit the Philippines, invitations for a reception in his honor were immediately sent out to about five hundred persons to meet the general. Honoring the general, a formal dinner will be tendered at the legation residence. The two evening affairs will be held on the patio facing the rear garden. We cross our fingers for fair weather in the evenings. A copy of the tentative itinerary of General Chung is attached for your information.

I am deeply appreciative of your prompt dispatch of a radiogram in reply to my query concerning the Korean participation in the Aircraft show in Manila. The Philippine government has been so informed to the effect that our government has expressed regret for being unable to accept the invitation to send a Korean jet plane to the Manila Air Show in December.

Sincerely yours,


YOUNG KEE KIM

Dr. Chung Whan Cho
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Seoul

Copy sent to His Excellency, President Syngman Rhee