

**November 19, 1956**  
**Report No. 101 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the recent internal politics within the government in the Philippines, including rivalry between Ambassador Romulo and Chief Delegate Segano, as well as President Magsaysay's missions to Korea and Washington.

**Credits:**

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Report No. 101LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES**CONFIDENTIAL**

November 19, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Vice President Carlos P. Garcia confided to me that he had been told by President Magsaysay to forego his projected trips to an atoms-for-peace conference to be held in New Zealand, UN General Assembly or Korea because of the importance attached to the evaluation of coded reports coming in from the Philippine missions abroad. Last week he was alerted to proceed to New York to head the Philippine delegation to the UN to reconcile unfriendly rivalry that had been existing between Philippine Ambassador Romulo and Chief Delegate Serrano. It seems to me that Serrano regains the confidence of the administration leaders as the Philippine Mission Chief to the UN. In the PI-US military bases renegotiation, Romulo has been criticized for taking too much pro-American attitude in the handling of Washington end. His prestige has been somewhat diminished.

The Vice President further told me that his brother- Minister Garcia informed his government of your official invitation extended to President Magsaysay to visit Korea. Magsaysay's Press Secretary J.V. Cruz left here for a three-month world tour ostensibly with a view to inspect the Philippine diplomatic missions' activities abroad; and at the same time to lay advance plans for President Magsaysay's visit to Washington next spring. Next year, being election year, Mr. Magsaysay would like to take advantage in his re-election campaign of his popularity during his official visit in the States. There is no question about the wholehearted support in his bid for re-election from the rural districts but the voters in the metropolitan areas are dissatisfied with many promises he made which are still unfulfilled. There is a clamor for change in the administration.

The revision of PI-US bases agreements which met deadlock just prior to the U.S. Presidential election will have to be shelved for sometime because both sides refuse to compromise. In the light of the Middle East crisis, the Chief Executive was informed by top-level American diplomatic and military officials of a United States move to strengthen the military structure of the Philippines and improve its defense posture.

I am informed that Lt. General Jesus Vargas, chief of the Philippine Armed Forces has officially extended an invitation to General Il Kwon Chung, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, ROK, to visit the Philippines as guest of the A.F.P. The tentative official schedule has been made and sent to General Chung. The date would be December 12 to 17. I understand the hotel and other incidental expenses incurred by the general and his staff members during the Manila visit will be borne by the Philippine government. The official visit of General Chung and his entourage has been arranged through the courtesy of Brig. General Pelagio Cruz, an old time friend of Chung. Both studied together at Fort

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Benning during the early days of training.

I plan to tender a reception in honor of General Chung inviting several hundred guests to meet the general and a black tie dinner at which top brass of the Philippine army, navy and air force will be invited. The two affairs will be held at the new residence where we will move in a few days. The black tie fete was imposed on us and we had to comply with the wishes of the host nation. As our people are the recipient of aid from other countries, we cannot afford to invite criticism by putting up elaborate entertainment.

I am confidentially informed that General Chung will be awarded a decoration by the Philippine government and cautioned that the information be held top secret.

I concluded a lease agreement to rent the new house for a term of two years beginning December 1, 1956 to November 30, 1958. And one year extension of lease is now being negotiated with the owner who is at present connected with the Philippine Legation in Bonn, Germany. Although the rent for the new house starts on December 1, we will move in earlier to settle down before the arrival of General Il Kwan Chung and Sook Myung Girls Basketball team. A copy of the lease agreement is appended to the Korean report.

Realizing the growing importance of the U.S. military establishment in the Philippines, the newly accredited French Ambassador told me that he had requested for the assignment of a military attache to the French embassy here. French Ambassador Georges Cattand has been in China for many years prior to his immediate past position as Charge d' Affaires in Taipeh.

The Philippines is ready to send a contingent of 46 enlisted men and four officers to comply with the U.N. request in the dispatch of armed forces to the Middle East conflict for police action. While the Nacionalista congressmen were generally in favor of the plan, the Liberal solons were opposed to what they called "short cut and undemocratic process of doing." The Philippine offer of token force might be turned down because the 6000 officers and men required by the situation had already been over-subscribed by some 17 nations which had responded first to the U.N. call for volunteers.

Faithfully yours,

*Young Kee Kim*  
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to Acting Minister Chung Whan Cho.