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November 19, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim reports Minister Cho on the Korean high school basketball team's trip in Philippines, foreign trade statistics produced by the Netherlands legation, and the direct procurement by the Philippines mission in Tokyo.

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November 19, 1956

Dear Mr. Minister:

Dr. Kyu Hong Caun, chairman of the International Athletic Association of Korea, three radio announcers, an official of the Department of Education and four newspapermen arrived here enroute to Melbourne with no reservations confirmed before their departure. All the available airlines had advance bookings to the limit and over one hundred fifty persons were on the waiting list hoping to secure passage to Melbourne. Since they came to seek our assistance in securing passage to Melbourne, it was our duty to exert every available influence to get the Koreans on board the plane to get there on time. Vice Consul Chung worked hard day and night to see them on their arrival and departure. Finally, the Qantas (Australian) airliner re-arranged its sitting compartment to accommodate the unexpected Korean passengers. Vice Consul Chung got sick because of overwork. It was most strenuous. What hectic days we had when nine Koreans arrived here hoping we could do some miracle.

I received a letter from Mrs. Nam Shik Moon, principal of Sook Myung Girls' High School stating that her school team has been authorized by the Basketball Committee of the Korean Amateur Athletic Association to accept the invitation to come and play a series of games with teams from Hongkong, Japan and the Philippine-Chinese. The Sook Myung Team will be composed of players and officials of the school. The local Chinese Y.M.C.A. sponsoring the international basketball tournament guaranteed a sum of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000.00), entrance visa fee of THIRTY PESOS (P30.00) per person and spending money of FIVE PESOS (P5.00) per player while they play besides all the room and lodging expenses to be paid by the sponsors. According to their plan, the Sook Myung team will arrive here in the middle of December for a two week stay. I wish you would advise the principal to accompany the team with someone who can speak English as an interpreter. As previously experienced, it is very, very awkward for the Legation officials to act as interpreters, as there is no other Korean working in the Chancery. Sometimes Korean students help in that kind of situation, but it is not very dependable. I am sure that the school will comply with your directive in having one English speaking person in the basketball team.

The principal of Sook Myung Girls' High School says that one of the Philippine Islands requests her to be teachers in Legation.

The Netherlands legation in Manila has released the foreign trade statistics for the period of January to August 1956, showing Philippine exports to Holland at P30 million vs. P20 million over the same period in 1955. Principal items were copra, abaca, coconut oil, cattle feed and tobacco. Philippine importations of Dutch products for the same period valued at P9,800,000 as against P8,400,000 for the same period of last year. The principal items were dairy, meat, chemical and pharmaceutical products, salt, coke, paints, paper, metal goods and electrical machineries.

The council of state approved the adoption of the direct procurement by the Philippine mission in Tokyo of the following goods and services:

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1) pile driving and cement handling equipment \$500,000; 2) rolling stock \$2 million; 3) equipment for cottage industries \$2 million; 4) steel products \$1.50 million; 5) cement \$600,000; 6) floating canneries, fishing boats, fertilizers, canned salmon, corned beef and printing press \$9 million; and 7) salvage operations \$1.1 million. The Council of State withheld action on the reparations mission recommendation of the acquisition of a site for the Philippine Embassy and reparations mission compound, building and living quarters \$2.3 million.

The Philippines manifested their sympathy and moral support to the struggle of the people of Hungary by holding a fervent demonstration at the Rizal Memorial Stadium where 80,000 people assembled. The field Mass was officiated by Archbishop Rufino J. Santos who led the prayer for the freedom loving people of Hungary.

Dr. and Mrs. Howard A. Rusk stopped over here for several days enroute to Korea where they will inspect the progress of various aspects of rehabilitation projects. They came here at the invitation of the Madrigal family who showed their appreciation and thanks in the recovery of former Senator Madrigal who has been a patient of Dr. Rusk in New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Acting Minister Chung Whan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency Syngman Rhee