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November 10, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on building friendly relations between the Philippines and Korea, difficulties in performing conventional etiquette for Korean personnel, and Soviet invasion of Hungary.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

With a view to enhance improved relations with the Philippines, the Nationalist government extended invitations to journalists, businessmen, and civic leaders to visit Taipeh, and last week, several newspapermen headed by the President's Press Secretary, J.V. Cruz went to Taipeh to be the guests of China for one week. On their return, they invariably gave a fine publicity of China and her problems. There are several Filipino newspapermen who were in Korea during the war covering the war news in connection with the Philippine Battalion Combat Teams. If a selected group of Filipino journalists are given an opportunity to visit Korea, I am sure that there will be several qualified persons who can be of service to Korea in the promotion of friendly relations and understanding between the two countries.

Mr. Magsaysay, alarmed of the U.S. military alert summoned defense department and armed forces brass for a briefing on the situation. National Security Council has been called to discuss top secret reports pouring in from the Philippine Ambassador Leon Ma. Guerrero in London and Ambassador Serrano, the Philippine Mission Chief to the U.N. on the rapid changes shaping the growing danger of a new world war.

It seems to me we are slow in learning and adapting ourselves to the ordinary task of performing certain conventional etiquette or courtesy. The Korean delegation arrived here without advance notice. Dr. Hernandez met Dr. George L. Paik who came here from Taipeh where he attended a certain educational conference. Nobody knew when the other delegates would come. Although unaware of their arrival, Vice Consul Chung went to the airport to check up on the incoming passenger list from early evening to the last plane coming in late.

We are always ready to render service to the Korean delegates whenever they inform us of their arrival either by radiogram or letter. Vice Speaker Sung Soo Whang, one of the delegates, came here incognito but he should have been accorded proper courtesies in respect to the honor and dignity of the second highest office he holds in our National Assembly. I shall be appreciative of any cooperation the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may extend by informing me of the arrival in Manila of certain important persons.

The Philippine-European Conference lines announced the surcharge of 15% freight increase to and from Europe effective November 8. However, the increased rate does not apply to copra and sugar which are not being covered by the Conference contract. The hike in the

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shipping rates is claimed necessary for the risk involved is heavy.

The Soviet invasion of Hungary and open flare-up of U.S.-France-Israel war in Egypt keep the Philippine government alert. The Philippine National Red Cross remitted to the International Red Cross a sum of \$2500.00 as a contribution towards the relief of war casualties. Ambassador Felixberto Serrano, the Philippine Mission Chief has been instructed by his government to follow the policy of moderation in the Egyptian war issue.

Administration leaders are not in favor of contributing Filipino troop to a proposed international police force for the troubled Middle East. Senators Ruperto Kangleon and Donaciano Alonto (Moslem) strongly object to the Philippine participation in the police war by sacrificing lives and money. The lawmakers urged that the Philippines vote with the Asian-African bloc in the UN on a question dealing with the Middle East. The administration supports an Asian-African resolution calling for a cease-fire in Egypt.

The Moslem leaders urged the application for joining the police force of the UN. The Philippine participation in the Korean war was not spontaneous from the outset; and once she got involved in the conflict, their memories of the Korean war are still fresh in their mind. But the public opinion favors the fulfillment of its solemn obligations as a UN member by sending a contingent of the Philippine Armed Forces to the Middle East. Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao favors the dispatch of a token force of the Filipino soldiers to the police force for he believes it would be a good idea for the training of the troop.

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.