

October 19, 1956
**Report No. 98 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on Minister Tomas De Castro's resignation from the foreign service, the issue of renegotiating PI-US military base agreement, and circulation of Korean Survey in Philippines.

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Report NO. 98

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

October 19, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Minister Tomas de Castro, who is supposed to go to New York as a deputy chief of the Philippine Mission to the UN, has reportedly resigned from the foreign service in disgust over his retention here as President's foreign affairs advisor. According to reliable information, De Castro, while bidding farewell courtesy to the President, was told to forego his trip to New York via Europe which he planned following his return from Seoul. He was dumbfounded with the abrupt order from the Chief Executive. De Castro told President Magsaysay that he could not discharge the duties of presidential advisor, and asked to be sent to New York instead. When his request was turned down, he resigned. It is all politics. He felt of being shoved around by politicians to make room for someone more deserving to take the New York post.

When Maximino Bueno was relieved of his post as the Philippine representative to the UNCURE, it was believed to be the maneuver of de Castro who concurrently took Bueno's post with extra pay of one-half the regular UN salary which the latter received from the UNCURE. I understand Bueno's allowance was \$20.00 per diem. The recall of Bueno was attributed to the political intrigues concocted by the de Castros. While Bueno was on the waiting list of the foreign service, he decried the behavior of the de Castros in Seoul.

With the return to Manila of Karl B. Bendetsen and his party from Washington, the US-PI negotiations for revision of the military bases and jurisdictional rights was resumed on October 15; and no progress is being made because of diametrically opposite views taken by both sides. Although both panels had indicated previously a desire for revision of particular provisions of the 1947 PI-US military bases agreement relating to criminal jurisdiction along the pattern set down in Article VII of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization agreement on the status of forces (signed in London on June 15, 1951), the Philippine government does not want to waive the jurisdictional right in favor of authorities of the U.S. in most offenses except in those where the Philippines has compelling interest.

The American panel claimed that the "semi-automatic waiver" is part and parcel of the NATO agreement and in bases agreements between the United States and its NATO allies and with Japan. The Philippine group, on the other hand, adopted the position that the U.S. request amounted to an "advance waiver" of the right to exercise jurisdiction over portions of the Philippine territory. As it stands, the next meeting is scheduled to be held sometime next week. It is reliably informed that a compromise on the criminal jurisdiction on the offense of U.S. Armed Forces Personnel patterned on the NATO type would be reached after the U.S. presidential election is over on November 6. The Washing-

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ton administration is not in favor of publicizing the settlement of the PI-US jurisdictional dispute prior to the U.S. general election, for it might afford the opponent to inject the issue in the political campaign. Parents and relatives of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the Philippines would object to the exercise of the Philippine jurisdictional right on armed forces and their dependents living either inside or outside of the military bases.

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Japan pledged to deliver \$25 million worth of goods and service to the Philippines in the first year of reparations payments. The Philippines requires 40,000 tons of steel, 50,000 tons of cement and construction machineries worth at a total of \$14,500,000 and 4 million worth of manufactured goods in addition to \$6.5 million ship salvage services already rendered. Now Japan says she cannot fulfill the requirement of 14,000 tons of steel because of the scarcity of steel and high price. The Philippine Government worries what the future will hold when the Hatoyama government collapses after the conclusion of the Japan-Soviet peace treaty. The "Adenauer formula" peace treaty which Hatoyama sought in Moscow will affect Jap reparations payments to the Philippines.

A Liberal party committee on information and issues approved five major issues against the Nacionalista government in next year's national election as follows: 1) increasing number of unemployment in the country; 2) high prices of essential commodities; 3) increase of public debt with deficit spending; 4) imposition of onerous taxes and 5) rampant graft and corruption in the government. The Liberal party is scouting for a presidential timber who can challenge the incumbent Chief Executive in the next year election. The Liberals charged that President Magsaysay "buys" provincial Liberal party leaders with pork barrel fund and many favors.

Kim

On the publication of information, I would like to report to you of the progress being made since the Korean Survey has been printed in Manila beginning November of last year. Over nineteen hundred copies are distributed in the Philippines and two hundred fifty copies are mailed to readers in Burma, India, Thailand, Singapore, Saigon and Pakistan. Fortnightly, the Korean Correspondent is mimeographed for circulation in the Philippines; while one hundred copies of the Korean Republic are distributed in Manila. Books and pamphlets on Korea are either mailed on request or given to those who call for information on Korea. We always keep enough supplies of literature on Korea to meet the demand. From time to time, we buy English books on Korea which were published before and after the Korean war. Literature on Korean art and business statistics are lacking to complete the library for reference on Korea.

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

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