

October 17, 1956

Letter No. 17 from Syngman Rhee to Young Kee Kim

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Summary:

President Rhee instructs Minister Kim to postpone responding to Vice President Garcia's offer to mediate in Korea-Japan negotiation.

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To Minister Yong Kee Kim

From the President

Copies of Senator Claro M. Recto's speech as enclosed in your letter No. 97 have been made and given out to various Government departments as you have suggested. I have also had copies made of the cutting you sent containing an announcement by the Board of Foreign Service Examiners as to requirements for applicants to the Philippines Foreign Service. These have been sent to our Foreign Ministry for study with a view to adopting some of these ideas into our system of examinations, etc. I have now also received your report no. 98 together with its numerous enclosures and wish to thank you for them.

I am pleased you had a talk with the Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and also met with the Consul General from Germany, Dr. Hertz before his departure for Korea.

The pictures taken at the dinner reception given by you for the new Philippine Minister are very good and I am glad that you entertained him in this way prior to his leaving Manila. I was interested to read in your report to the Acting Foreign Minister that Minister Garcia was recommended for the Korean appointment by the President of the Senate and not by his brother, the Foreign Secretary, as has been rumored here.

I was very interested to hear of your informal conversation with Vice President Garcia and your discussions concerning his offer to mediate in the reopening of the Korea-Japan negotiations. However, I wish you would postpone this idea saying you have had no instructions as yet from your home government. One of the reasons for this is that in the end it could not amount to very much. For instance Ambassador Yang, on his return home, had a talk with Acting Foreign Minister Takasaki. (See enclosed copy.) I asked the Ambassador to follow this up and he wrote me later suggesting that Takasaki come to Korea incognito. This inevitably happens. You will remember Dr. Kagawa wrote to me and was one of the first to acknowledge the guilt of Japan. No doubt you have seen my answer which was friendly, but terminated the correspondence. The next move however, was to suggest that Dr. Kagawa come to Korea. I simply cannot see what they can accomplish here that they cannot accomplish in Japan. Any conversation Dr. Takasaki had here with our Acting Foreign Minister could not achieve anything

- 2 -

more than with Minister Kim in Japan. It is evident that all the Japanese Government wants is to get its foot in Korea one way or another. Several years ago, after my visit to Japan, I agreed to have the representatives of the fishery people come to Korea and I saw them here. The results were nil. Unless the Japanese Government remaps its policy so far as Korea is concerned, there is no common ground for discussions. PA)