

**September 28, 1956**  
**Report No. 96 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

**Citation:**

"Report No. 96 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", September 28, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-045, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123184>

**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the PI-US military bases negotiations, Asian People's Anti-Communist League, and President Magsaysay's creation of a presidential commission on good government.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Report No. 96

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

September 28, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The current PI-US military bases negotiations has been suspended until October 10 pending further clarification from Washington. Mr. Karl B. Bendetsen, American panel spokesman, left for Washington to hold personal discussion with top brass officials of the State and Defense Departments. The suspension of military bases talks will give both sides a cooling off period for deliberation. While the Nacionalistas in power demand the revision of the military bases pact, some of the solons disagree with the ultra nacionalistic views of the administration in forcing the issue. Rep. Natalio P. Castillo, (N. Bohol), rallied behind Cebu City Mayor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., who expressed grave doubts as to the wisdom of revising the military bases pact. Castillo declared: "We must be resigned to the fact that we cannot defend ourselves alone from external communist aggression." Osmeña, Jr., son of former President Osmeña, who had favored granting military bases for the protection and preservation of the Philippine independence that the United States promised her, said: "History has proven the wisdom of my father's attitude. Had America fortified all her bases here as she would have done had the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law been accepted by the Philippine Legislature, there would have been, I dare say, no tragic surrender of Bataan, no Death March, and no humiliating surrender of Corregidor..... Noted for our gratefulness and hospitality, we should never forget what America has done for us and continues to do for us what no other nation will ever care to do."

It is reported that the Japanese government air-flew 62 farm laborers to their California jobs. They were accompanied by a foreign office representative. By the end of October, at least 500 will be going by surface carrier to California. And by March next year, 1000 will be shipped. Of course, its truth cannot be ascertained, but Americans of Japanese ancestry exert all their influence in bringing about the immigration of Jap farm hands to the States. Here in Manila, the clamor of the Filipinos, which has been whipped to the height of politico-labor dispute, comes to a standstill, and the labor elements blame the government for its meddling with stringent requirements.

Warships of seven treaty nations including the Philippines (SEATO) are scheduled to participate in the war games near Singapore, and will consist of three phases. The Philippines will participate in the third phase with the dispatch of eleven vessels. These will include two minesweepers which were recently acquired from the United States under Mutual Defense Agreement, six patrol boats and three patrol crafts. Australian aircraft carrier, and planes will proceed to Singapore to participate in the first phase maneuver. The second phase will take place

- 2 -

around the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, while the third phase will close on October 8, and the fleet will end the war games with a visit to Manila.

Mr. Ku Cheng Kang, chairman of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League of Taipei arrived here to report to the local Chinese Anti-Communist League on the recent caucus held in Saigon. They seem to take active interest in the anti-communist program in consonant with the revival of the Philippine anti-communist league which is undergoing an overhaul change in the reorganization under the direction of Undersecretary of Defense Jose Crisol, exponent of the Anti-Communist movement here.

I informed Dr. Jose M. Hernandez of a radiogram message from Mr. Chin Hong Kong, expressing his regret for being unable to help defray part of the plane fare for the Philippine Youth who are to attend the forthcoming Anti-Communist Youth Conference which is to be held in Seoul on October 10. However, Dr. Hernandez assured me that a few young people will be sent to Korea for the conference.

Mr. Magsaysay recently announced the creation of a presidential commission on good government, which would inquire into the charges of graft and corruption among the government officials, and recommend the necessary prosecution in court. The Liberals, opposition party, at first decried that graft and corruption are rampant in the government agencies and the Nacionalistas welcomed the move to unearth more of the graft cases under the former administration. The heads of the warring Nacionalista and Liberal parties, fearing the exposure of corruptions among the party members expressed displeasure in the participation of fact finding investigation. As the national elections will be held in 1957, both political parties are cautious in passing charges that might be rebounded to them.

President Magsaysay ordered the revocation of a 6000 hectare (15,000 acres) forest concession held by his relatives. Although the concession was granted after public bidding, the president believes that the relatives of a public official should not have anything to do with governmental matters that tend to cast suspicion of favoritism.

The question of raising the Korean Legation to embassy status, I am asked by the officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, regarding the desire of our government, and I answered them that the agreement of elevation would be reached on a high level communication between the two governments. As I had previously reported to you, the Philippine government is ready to implement a certain Foreign Service Act to raise its legation in Seoul if our government so agrees to reciprocate.

Faithfully yours,  
*Young Kee Kim*  
YOUNG KEE KIM  
Minister

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

Copy sent to Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Chung Whan Cho

81