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September 20, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Chung Whan Cho on the Suez Canal Crisis, PI-US military bases negotiations, and updates on Philippines' trading status with Germany and Japan.

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September 20, 1956

Dear Mr. Minister,

New Spanish ambassador designate Francisco Javier Conde arrived here to succeed Ambassador Fermin Sanz Orrio who was decorated by the Philippine government for his extraordinary service in the furthering of friendly relations between the two countries. Burmese ambassador U Pet Kin with residence in Bangkok arrived here and presented his letters of credence to Mr. Magsaysay as first Burmese Minister to the Philippines.

The Philippine foreign policy makers have reached accord in the appointment of Senator Jose C. Locsin (Nationalista) as first Filipino ambassador to the Holy See. The appropriation law provides an establishment of an embassy at Vatican to reciprocate the assignment of papal nuncio who has been here for many years. The proposed Filipino ambassador designate is a devout Catholic and served as secretary of Health under President Osmeña.

German Minister Von Frustenberg told me that the Vice Foreign Minister of Germany will visit Asian countries in November after he has attended a conference of German mission chiefs of Asian countries in New Delhi. Mr. Frustenberg said that the Vice Foreign Minister would stop here a day or two, and he would like to have me meet him. He is not sure whether or not the vice minister would visit Korea on his trip.

With the growing tension of the Suez Canal crisis, the cabinet decided to call a joint meeting of the national security and the council of state to receive up-to-date news developed from Cairo, London and Paris. The Philippine ambassador to London Leon de Guerrero has been summoned home for consultation. The main purpose of the joint meeting to be called by the President would be to assess the implications of the crisis including the possibility of war.

The Philippine-Europe shipping lines have announced a fifteen percent increase in shipping rates for cargo passing through the Suez Canal, effective September 18. The increase is explained as necessary because of anticipated delays in passage through the canal and the possibility of having the ship around the Cape of Good Hope.

Major General Joseph Harper, chief of the U. S. Military Advisory Group, had blamed the Philippine government for its failure

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to take steps to insure the effective utilization of American military equipment, worth 14 million pesos which are being stored for lack of fund. Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao and Lieutenant General Jesus Vargas, Chief of Staff, agreed with the claim of Gen. Harper but disowned any responsibility. A conducted tour of army depots for the newspapermen shows that hundreds of vehicles and crates or assorted ordinance, engineer and signal items were kept in nothballs.

The Philippine and United States military negotiators, after meeting last four weeks to thresh out their differences on the question of waiver of jurisdiction over offenses committed by the U. S. Armed Forces, came to a deadlock, and either side is adamant on his position. The U.S. negotiators are awaiting final instructions from Washington to yields to a certain compromise based on the use of the North Atlantic pact provisions.

Such provisions, if adopted by the Philippine-U.S. governments in their present renegotiation of the P.I.-U.S. bases agreement would allow U.S. authorities to try cases where the offender is a member of U. S. Armed Forces and the offense is solely against the person or property of another American Armed Forces member, or solely against the property or security of the U. S.

Manila Trading and Supply Company has been authorized by the Ford Motor Company of Cologne, Germany, to assemble German cars and diesel motors, and also manufacture spare parts for distribution in Manila and elsewhere. The "V-6" diesel motor is 130 horsepower job that utilizes crude oil instead of gasoline which saves one half cost of fuel consumption.

The Philippines bought from Japan P220,000 worth of tires and tubes to meet the partial need of 150,000 passenger cars, buses and trucks. Goodyear Rubber Company built a subsidiary tire factory and started the tire and tube production while the Firestone Rubber Oversea executives arrived here surveying the possibility of erecting a branch factory to produce 120,000 tires and tubes per year.

Under instructions, enclosed therewith a consular report in Korean a draft amounting to TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN DOLLARS and 67/100 cents (\$2,011.67 equivalent to P4,022.34) representing the total sum of money for visa, documentary and consular fees collected from January 19, 1954 to June 30, 1956. In connection with the visa fee, I would like to invite your attention to a certain disparity whereby the Philippine Legation in Seoul charges US Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for single entry visa fee while our Mission in Manila charges only US dollars (\$10.00). Reciprocity in the visa fee collected by the Philippine Legation in Seoul and Korean Legation in Manila is recommended.

Advised

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Y. K. Kim

Professor Ramon Tapales, dean of the College of Music, University of the Philippines has accepted an invitation extended by President Il Sun Yun, Seoul National University to be guest conductor of Symphony Orchestra which will be rendered on the Tenth anniversary of the Seoul National University on October 15-17. Profesor Tapales, accompanied by a lady pianist is scheduled to arrive in Seoul on the early part of October, to familiarize himself with the Korean musicians. I am advised that the travelling and other incidental expenses for the guest musicians will be paid by the Seoul National University.

Sincerely yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

The Honorable Chung Whan Cho
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy for the President

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