

September 5, 1956

Letter No. 12 from Syngman Rhee to Young Kee Kim

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Summary:

Syngman Rhee comments on the PI-US military bases negotiations, employment of Filipino farmers in California, and the visit of Dr. Frederick Brown Harris in Manila.

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To Minister Young Kee Kim

From the President

I am in receipt of your Report No. 93 and your copy report of 31 August to the Acting Foreign Minister.

With the negotiations between the PI and US negotiators deadlocked as a result of the US objections to hand over its authority of operation of the defense bases, it is interesting to observe that a re-definition of the authority of the Joint US Advisory Group and a reduction of the American military advisors are being requested by the Philippines.

Dr. Frederick Brown Harris will be visiting Manila for the specific purpose of presenting the Freedoms Foundations award to President Magsaysay. You will no doubt have received a cable in which I suggested that while Dr. Harris is in Manila you give him a reception. He is my very good friend, as you know.

I have advised Ambassador Yang of the PI contract with the US State Department to employ 1,000 Filipino agricultural workers in California. It is my understanding that some 500 Japanese will also be going to California for farm labor and I am recommending that our Ambassador take up with the State Department the desirability of having some of our farmers go to California to work. Please keep me informed of the progress of this project as it affects the Filipino farmers.

I am also very interested in Japanese trade activities as reported in your letter to the Acting Foreign Minister. I have sent excerpts of this letter to our Commerce Minister to see what be done by our businessmen to barter for Philippine trade. *R*.

156