

August 20, 1956
**Report No. 92 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the local and international newspapers that circulate in Manila.

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Report No. 92 ✓

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

August 20, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

In reference to the request of the "Evening News" for your message to be published in the eleventh anniversary edition of the "Evening News", I wish to inform you that this newspaper, which has a circulation of 35,000, is respected for its conservative policy in support of US-PI good relations. The paper is owned by ex-Commander "Chick" Parsons, a naturalized Filipino citizen, Executive Vice President of the Luzon Stevedoring Co. He is very friendly to the Koreans for his business connections with the molasses export. I have been advised by Chinese Ambassador Chen Chih-mai that President Chiang Kai-shek's message will appear in the anniversary edition of the "Evening News". I am sure your message will be well appreciated by the reading public of the Philippines. In this connection, I would like to inform you that if a few outstanding journalists could go to Korea and write on the present conditions in Korea, their report on the uneasy armistice, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects will be well received.

In Manila, there are four English morning newspapers and two afternoon papers, besides several tabloids in Tagalog (Filipino national language) and three Chinese papers. Except for the "Manila Daily Bulletin", which is American owned, all the English papers are edited and published by the Filipinos. The press does not print any press release as in the States.

The translation copy of your inaugural address arrived here rather late because it was miscarried to the Korean Mission in Tokyo and from there the same arrived here on August 13. It was released for the press the following day. I was disappointed that no paper carried your inaugural speech. However, several papers printed AP, UP, INS press dispatches from Seoul covering the inauguration ceremonies, quoting high lights of your speech.

The bilateral talks on the revision of the US-PI bases agreement have started and it was indicated that the discussions may open the way for a re-examination of the entire field of military relationship between the Philippines and the U.S. The Philippine panel wants more definite assurance of immediate and automatic United States retaliation in case of an external armed attack on the Philippines, than what is embodied in the PI-US mutual defense treaty.

*Not Mr. Justice Garcia's description
on 'Document' file*

Senator Emmanuel Pelaez, spokesman of the Philippine panel, reasserted the Philippine foreign policy by stressing that the Philippines is committed to the close relations with the U.S., the principle of anti-neutralism and the maintenance of a system of bases in the Philippines for mutual defense and protection. At the outset of the panel discussion, former U.S. Undersecretary Karl R. Bendetson, spokesman of the American panel, asked the Philippine counterpart to "lay the cards on the table" for frank discussion.

The House sub-committee on the revision of Foster-Quirino agreement, with Rep. Jose J. Roy as chairman, boldly proposed to reject the U.S. economic aid if certain remedies are not met. The three-point proposals submitted by the Roy sub-committee are: 1) that a yearly grant of \$50 million be extended to the Philippines as originally recommended by the Bell Mission, 2) that the government be given a hand in the determination of priority projects to be undertaken by the International Cooperation Administration aid program, and 3) importation, with fund aid, of specific commodities or agricultural products be curtailed.

In this connection, the sub-committee decried the ICA administrators for lack of foresight in the training of technicians and announced certain terms of trade agreement with West Germany: 1) a five year credit for the payment of capital goods be provided for the Philippine government, 2) scholarship plan for 100 Filipino students to enroll at universities in West Germany, and 3) training of Filipinos in industrial plants with their transportation paid by the German government.

In answer to your query on a certain Teodoro A. Luceno, a free lancer, I wish to inform you that I received two replies, one from Carlos F. Nivera, editor of the "Philippines Herald" and the other from Jose D. Aspiras, President of the National Press Club of the Philippines. Copies of their letters are herewith attached for your reference. If permission is granted, I shall be happy to send Mr. Luceno a copy of your biography by Bob Oliver.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy to Acting Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho.

*cc
Confid.
inform
Rhees
Minister
M. Rhee*

*yes
M. Rhee*