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August 20, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the conflict between Filipino manufacturers and Japanese traders and the reception held at the Filipino Navy Officers Club to celebrate the third inauguration of President Rhee.

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August 20, 1956

Dear Mr. Minister:

Upon the receipt of a letter from Dr. I. C. Fang, Western Pacific Regional Director, World Health Organization, inquiring about the official delegates to the Seventh Committee Meeting of the Western Pacific Region to be held in Manila, from September 7 to 13, we sent a radiogram requesting you to inform Dr. Fang of the names of the Korean delegates.

While the Japanese trade missions talk of the Filipino prosperity as a result of the reparations implementation, about 100 Filipino trading firms in Japan complain that they will have to close their business because the Jap manufacturers who used to supply them regularly, are no longer willing to quote their goods. Here in Manila about 200 Jap traders have flocked to open up their trade agencies. The Central Bank refused to allocate dollars to the Jap importers. The best the Japanese traders can do is to import their merchandise in "indent order" business by which they have to take a chance.

The reception held at the Philippine Navy Officers' Club was well attended. High government officials, diplomatic and consular corps and civic leaders participated in the celebration of our National Day and the inauguration of President Rhee to a third term. It was good fortune and honor for me, as a representative of our government, to hold the happy reception where I received felicitations and good wishes from over three hundred guests. Many sincere felicitations by cable and messenger were received from good friends of Korea. In spite of many other social parties that same evening, the attendance at our reception was very heartening and appreciative.

Mr. Kwandoo Park, an American citizen of Korean ancestry and who is connected with the Concrete Engineering Co. of Honolulu, was here for a week to consult with local construction firms to promote his business. He said he is going to Seoul to teach for one year Structural Engineering at the Chosun Christian University. He further stated that his travelling expenses are paid by him and that he will not receive any remuneration while teaching at the University. Although he is not looking for any monetary gain by rendering his service gratis, his ultimate motive is to introduce in Korea the prestressing and precasting concrete processes for which he holds franchise. The new concrete construction methods

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have been proven to be satisfactory in the States, and time element and cost are shortened and lessened, according to structural engineers.

I have been advised that the agreement to the appointment of Mr. Cosme Garcia has been transmitted through the Philippine Minister Tomas de Castro to our government and his appointment will be officially announced when our government agrees to Mr. Garcia as the next Philippine Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Korea.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Mr. Garcia's personal history for your study and recommendation to the President. He is a fine career diplomat and his qualifications are excellent.

Sincerely yours,


YOUNG KEE KIM

The Honorable Chung Wnan Cho,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Seoul, Korea.

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