

August 11, 1956
**Report No. 91 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs on the upcoming reception celebrating Korean Independence, hosted by Korean legation. He also reports on the PI-US re-negotiations on the military bases.

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Report No. 91 *see*LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

August 11, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

I am most grateful to you for an extra allowance of Five Hundred Dollars which will be used in connection with the observance of the Eighth Anniversary of our Independence and the celebration of Your Excellency's inauguration as President of the Republic of Korea. As the occasion is doubly significant not only to the Korean people alone, but also to the free people all over the world, August Fifteenth will be celebrated with a reception to which six hundred persons have been invited. This is a most happy occasion where I am honored and privileged to return the social courtesies that had been graciously extended to me at multifarious social functions. As the Legation is too small, the reception will be held at the Philippine Navy Officers' Club.

Owing to the state of tension that had been brought about by the happenings at Suez Canal, Australian Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies has to defer his visit to Manila which he had arranged. He expressed his deep regrets to the Philippine government through the Australian Ambassador.

The Philippine-American re-negotiations on the military bases agreement of 1947 have started between the two top-level panels; The Philippine panel is headed by Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, and the U.S. by Ambassador Albert F. Nufer and former U.S. Undersecretary of War Karl Bendetson.

The principles adopted by the Philippine panel are based on the Magsaysay-Nixon statement which was jointly announced on the Fourth of July in commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Philippine Independence, as follows:

1. The existence of a system of U.S. bases in the Philippines has been and continues to be necessary for the mutual protection and defense of both countries.
2. The Philippine government will contribute for the use of additional lands to strengthen the base system; and the U.S. will turn over to the Philippines those areas that are no longer needed. The maintenance of the bases will be carried on by the U.S. with its personnel, equipment and physical facilities.
3. Reaffirming full recognition of the Philippine sovereignty over the bases; the U.S. will transfer and turn over to the Philippines all title papers and title claims held by the U.S. to all lands used as military bases, except those areas which may now or will be used by the U.S. for its diplomatic and consular establishment,

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The Philippine panel has seven proposals for inclusion in the final agenda for the talks: 1) delimitation 2) jurisdiction 3) application of tax and other economic laws in the bases 4) expansion 5) reactivation and development 6) the lease period and 7) release of bases which are not being used or occupied or that which may be found unnecessary.

In the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending in 1957, a provision was included for an increase of the Philippine Mission in Seoul's budget from legation to embassy in anticipation of the conclusion of an agreement between Korea and the Philippines on the raise to embassy status of their respective missions.

The elevation of the Philippine Legation to embassy was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with the veteran Senator Francisco Delgado as chairman.

The first rank ambassadors are accredited to America and Spain, while the second class ambassadors are accredited to other countries.

Following your cable instructions of August 8, the press release of the August Fifteenth statement was withheld, and the amended statement, which arrived here yesterday, was released for the press. I am appreciative of the minor corrections you made in the statement and also the acknowledgment of my official reports.

I met Senator Bourke Hickenlooper who stopped over-night here enroute to Seoul.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy to: The Honorable Chung Whan Cho

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