

July 30, 1956
**Report No. 90 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the recent conflict within Filipino congress, review on the security situation in the Philippines by PI and US, and the visit of Philippine Trade and Goodwill Mission to Korea.

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Report No. 90

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

July 30, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Congress adjourned its 30-day special session on July 25 without approving the reparations implementation measures, the revised tariff act and the President's pet bills including the one seeking to increase the penalty for the crime of rebellion. At present, the rebellion act carries a maximum penalty of twelve years imprisonment. As Congress failed to pass the President's 37-point legislative program, a special session might be called again by the President; but the leaders of both houses are strongly opposed to another meet.

President Magsaysay and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, reviewed the security situation in the Philippines and its neighboring countries in Southeast Asia. The U.S. agreed to turn over to the Philippines a squadron of (30) Sabrejets to bolster the air strength of this country next year. Radford came here to commission a newly built U.S. naval airbase at Cubi which took four years to complete at a cost of 80 million dollars. This is the largest airbase outside of the United States. The Cubi airbase is 8000 feet long with a runway capable of providing facilities for land-based planes, aircraft carrier planes and sea planes, and for the support of anti-submarine warfare aircraft. The Cubi Point navy air station on historic Bataan, 50 miles from Manila, will also have adequate provision to handle America's biggest atomic bombers.

When President Magsaysay spoke at the commissioning ceremony, he made a special request to the Admiral to leave all the construction equipment for the Philippine government to be used for the rural improvement projects.

Mr. Efren V. Mendoza, head of the Philippine Trade and Goodwill Mission which recently visited Korea, revealed to the press that our government is desirous of raising the Korean Legation in Manila to the status of an embassy. He stated that the Philippine Minister to Korea, Mr. Tomas de Castro, has been commended by Your Excellency for the valuable cooperation the former renders to the Korean government. He further said that De Castro was apprised of our government's desire to bring to the attention of President Magsaysay the possibility of raising the Legation here to embassy in the near future.

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Mr. Mendoza said the goodwill mission's consensus favors the raising of the Legation here to embassy on the ground that there is affinity of interest between the two countries. The mission recommends the revival of negotiations on the Treaty of Trade already drafted by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Philippine government approached a certain U.S. shipping corporation to purchase four freighters with Philippine bonds and a certain portion in cash. As the Philippines lack bottoms to carry on ocean going cargoes, she will by all means build up her merchant shipping of which 95% is being carried by foreign ships mostly of the U.S. and Japan. Portion of the Jap reparations will demand of Japan the delivery of certain cargo vessels.

The I.C.A. has granted to the Philippine government a loan of 10 million dollars, out of which 3 million will be used for the construction of electric power plant and the rest for the purchase of construction materials and machinery to implement the rural economic development projects.

If the loan is paid in pesos, the rate of interest would be 4% per annum and the rate would be $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ when the loan is paid annually. But, if the loan is paid in dollars, the interest would be 3% per annum.

A four-man Philippine delegation, headed by Dr. Amando Dalisay of the Central Bank, went to Bangkok to attend one of the periodic meetings designed to foster closer economic ties between the SEATO countries. The conference will start from August 1 to the 10th.

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

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