July 19, 1956

Report No. 89 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the newly appointed ambassadors from Philippines to Japan and the US.

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Report No. 89

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

July 19, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

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President Magsaysay indicated that he would revamp his Cabinet and reorganize the Public Service Commission to eliminate the "deadwood" in this agency and restore the confidence of the people in the Commission. He said he would visit Washington sometime in January and that he might include Spain and West Germany in his itinerary.

The foreign policy advisor to the President, Mr. Felino Neri, has been nominated as first Philippine Ambassador to Japan. He was undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs during the ex-President Quirino's administration and for the last several years was the chief negotiator of the recently concluded Japanese reparations agreement which was ratified by the Senate. Several newspapermen will be given assignments as press attaches at the Philippine Embassy and the Reparations Commission in Japan.

Albert S. Nufer, new U.S. ambassador, arrived here yesterday and as soon as his routine U.S. bases inspection is concluded, he will head the U.S. panel which will negotiate with the Philippine counterpart under Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Nufer, a career diplomat, is well versed in Spanish and German. The Philippine lawmakers demand the revision of US-PI relations which have been a source of ill-feeling between the two countries. This is in line with awakening nationalism of the Filipino people.

Following the eleven-day filibustering by Senator Lorenzo Tañada, the Senate ratified the reparations agreement with Japan by a vote of 19 to 3, with one abstention and the San Francisco Treaty by a vote of 18 to 3. A resolution on understanding with respect to the interpretation of the reparations agreement in the future was also approved unanimously.

Kaiichiro Sakai, aged 50, a career diplomat and economist expert, has been appointed as first Japanese ambassador to the Philippines and an agreement of his appointment is being sought from the Philippine government. He was Minister to Britain from 1951 to 1953, delegate to the ECAFE Conference at Bangalore, India, and the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung. At present he is serving as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Planning Board. He studied for three years at Edinburgh, Scotland. e V

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The budget for the Fiscal Year 1956-57 carried a total amount of P629,202,816 spread out among several categories as follows: general fund - P574,662,969; special fund -P34,994,238; judiciary fund - P11,545,609; bond fund - P8,000,000. The appropriations for the different departments are as follows: Office of the President - P60 million; Foreign Affairs - P6,900,000; Finance - P45 million; Justice - P19 million; Public Works -P38 million; Defense - P156 million; Education - P199 million; Labor - P2,600,000; Health - P42,800,000; Agriculture - P36,700,000; Commerce and Industry - P5,100,000.

Kighty one delegates representing forty one nations, including two Iron Curtain countries, will attend the Fifth Conference of the World Confederation of Organizations of Teaching Profession to be held here on August 1 to August 8, 1956. The meeting, sponsored by the Philippine Public School Teachers' Association, will be subsidized with P75,000.00 from the Philippine government. The four previous meetings were held in: Holland - 1952; England - 1953; Norway - 1954 and Turkey - 1955.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the reply from President Magsaysay to Your Excellency's message of felicitation on the Tenth Anniversary of the Independence of the Philippines.

Faithfully yours,

Joung Kee Kin

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

Copy to Acting Minister Chung Whan Cho