

June 8, 1956
**Report No. 85 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Syngman Rhee on the reparations agreement by Japan discussed in Philippines congress, KO-PI joint navy operations, and SEATO conference.

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Report No. 85 *file***LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

June 8, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Differences between the senate and lower house over the national budget and the public works bill were settled at a caucus between leaders of both chambers. They also reached accord on the agenda of a one month special session of congress which will be held on June 20, upon the approval of the proposed agenda by President Magsaysay. The most important on the agenda are the ratification of the Japanese reparations agreement and the San Francisco Peace Treaty; general appropriations bill; public works bill and the revision of tax measures.

The Philippine senate hailed the ratification of the reparations agreement by Japan and assured the President of similar action by the Philippine senate, the treaty ratifying body. The ratification of the agreement is considered as a "shot in the economic arm" of the Philippines and will rebound to the people's benefit. There will be about three senators who might obstruct the passage of the agreement, but it is confident that the senate can muster sixteen affirmative votes out of the twenty four senators.

The President, impatient over delayed reports on so many cases of anomalies involving government office or instrumentality, directed the investigators to work day and night to shed more light on charges against government agencies. Whenever anomalies are reported in the press, President Magsaysay directs investigating committees, composed of honest and upright citizens to unearth all irregularities of the government agencies, exposing graft and corruption allegedly indulged by government officials.

The schedule for the three-day visit to Manila of our navy's joint operational and training ships was arranged in cooperation with the Office of Foreign Relations, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and I hope the training cruise will be profitable to the officers and midshipmen of our navy. The local press has been very cordial in allotting liberal space for the publicity of our navy's visit and on their arrival more publicity will be given about their activities while in Manila. Over three hundred invitations were sent to high government officials, diplomatic and consular corps, high ranking officers of the armed forces of the Philippines and to civic and community leaders. As our Legation is too small to accommodate the large crowd, the reception will be held at the Army and Navy Club.

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Maj General Joseph H. Harper, 55 years old, arrived here to become the Chief of the Joint United States Military Advisory Group in the Philippines. He is a veteran army officer serving in the same capacity in Greece in 1950 and just relinquished the command of the U.S. Infantry School in Fort Benning, Georgia. With the arrival of new U.S. Ambassador Albert Nufer, certain Filipino mining ore controversy, stemming from the refusal by the authorities of the U.S. military reservation at Clark Airfield to let the ore be hauled, will be threshed out between the Philippines and the U.S. on a high level talk. Senators pressed for government's rejection of a Washington diplomatic note claiming propriety rights over U.S. held military and naval bases in the Philippines.

The Philippine customs intelligence revealed a new standard operating procedure of international smuggling rings in bringing undeclared merchandise from Hongkong to the Philippines. The smuggling syndicate uses third parties, mostly Filipinos visiting Hongkong, in carrying contraband goods, consisting of smuggled articles of jewelry and highly taxable luxury items, to certain consignees in Manila. Chinese merchants are notorious in the smuggling ring and the Philippine Consulate staff members are under constant surveillance, and recently the Philippine Consul was recalled for investigation. Some local custom officials are reportedly involved in the smuggling of gems into the country.

On the progress of SEATO, President Magsaysay told an informal press conference that: 1) He could not assure anybody that a "tangible defense structure" would emerge out of the two SEATO conferences to be held in Singapore and Bangkok; 2) He had not authorized the Philippine delegates to commit the country in the formation of any joint force similar to that of NATO among western countries and 3) The Philippines does not plan to initiate any move to call for the inclusion of Nationalist China into the pact.

Third of the military staff planners of the SEATO is scheduled to be held in Singapore from June 11 to 27. The highlight of the Singapore discussion will be on a proposal to establish a permanent military structure to ensure the continuity of the military planning for the regional pact.

The other SEATO conference, on anti-subversion, will be held in Bangkok on June 14. SEATO high ranking officers of the armed forces of the Philippines will attend the two SEATO conferences. Bangkok is the permanent seat of the SEATO headquarters and also of many United Nations regional headquarters for Asia and the Far East. According to the annual



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report (April 1955 to February 1956) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, out of 35 conferences to be held under the auspices of the ECAFE for 1956, 18 conferences are slated to be convened in Bangkok; 10 open; 3 in Tokyo; 2 at India and 2 at Indonesia. If our government has a diplomatic representative stationed in Bangkok, he can readily inform our government of the news and events that are of vital concern to Korea.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy to Hon. Chung Whan Cho,
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.