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May 30, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the unofficial visit of Korean vessels to Philippines and trade agreements between Philippines and Portugal, US, Australia, and Korea.

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May 30, 1956

Dear Minister Cho:

Following your instructions pertaining to the unofficial visit of ROKN vessels during their maneuver and training cruise, a tentative schedule of the program during their three-day stay at the Port of Manila has been made in cooperation with the Foreign Relations officers of the Philippine Armed Forces. As the call of our navy fleet is unofficial, all the fanfare of protocol will be discarded and we will make their stay here pleasant and fruitful. Even though this year's visit to the Philippines becomes its third consecutive year, our naval operation does not seem to follow the proper procedure in making preparations in the dispatch of advance information particularly in names of vessels, respective commanders and wireless frequencies as required when vessels visit a foreign country. In order to facilitate their protocol requirement, an urgent radiogram was dispatched to our Ministry of National Defense with a request that all particulars be immediately sent to our Chancery. It takes time to make the preparations in giving publicity and entertainment for our navy fleet's visit.

I received a letter from Miss Soyoung Lee, a local employee who is coming here to work at the Chancery, stating that she is having trouble in getting dollar allocation for her travelling expenses. I hope she would come here before the arrival of the ROKN fleet so that she can help in the office work which is being piled up.

The Philippine cultural mission to Formosa, composed of local educators and newspapermen, will leave for Taipei for a ten day tour of Nationalist China. The Taipei government, realizing the importance of closer relations with the Philippines, endeavors to foster friendly ties between the two countries by inviting the Philippine educators and businessmen to Taipei.

Over 8,500 tons of Portuguese rice bartered for Philippine sugar left Lisbon bound for Manila. This shipment is in partial fulfillment of the barter deal recently closed between the Philippines and Portugal, involving 12,00 tons of rice against local sugar on a ten-to-ten basis.

President Magsaysay authorized the importation of 70,000 tons of Louisiana rice worth \$10,920,000 from the United States to meet the impending rice shortage in the Philippines. The PI-US deal would be payable in pesos, 75 per cent of which would be returned to the country to be used in the financing

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of government industrial and development projects. It is estimated that the importation of rice from U.S. would minimize the rice shortage and at the same time it would enable the government to export to Hongkong 5,000 tons of local rice which is unsalable in local markets.

Australia has appointed a trade commissioner in Manila to absorb greater share of the Philippine commerce. The Philippines' imports increased from \$5,818,000 in 1954 to \$9,717,000 in 1955. These imports consisted of frozen beef, veal, live stock, dairy products, flour and leather. The Philippine exports of \$429,000 in 1954 was increased to \$653,000 in 1955. Australian Ambassador K. C. O. Shann in his speech at a Rotary Club, suggested measures to promote the Philippine trade in Australia on the following basis: 1) Extension of "Most Favored Nation" treatment, 2) Implementation of tariff concessions on a number of leading Philippine exports and 3) licensed importation of peal logs.

Since my arrival here, I have urged my government to conclude a barter agreement with the Philippine government on a temporary basis to bring in Korean products; but as it stands now, the barter agreement which was drafted in March 1954 and forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be on file without action at the Foreign Office. When I was in Korea during my last trip, the textile people complained that as they have over production of cotton textile, they are looking for outlet to export them.

Mr. Kun Hyun, representative of the Korean Shipping Corporation, was here for one day on his way back to Korea via Hongkong. He was telling me that since the Korean Shipping Corporation bought six more cargo ships, he is seeking for cargo to keep the freighters afloat.

Sincerely yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM.

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

Copy for the President