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May 17, 1956

Letter, Syngman Rhee to Young Kee Kim

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Summary:

President Rhee informs Minister Kim that Bangkok cannot be included in ROK Navy's goodwill tour.

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To Minister Young Kee Kim

From the President

I wish to thank you for your Report No. 82.

I noted your suggestion that our ROK Navy should include Bangkok in its goodwill tour next June. The Chief of Naval Operations has advised that at this point it is impossible to change the arrangements which have already been made. One of the reasons is that the distance involved would lengthen the period of the cruise to approximately two months and would interfere with the administration of the academic program of the midshipmen.

Also, logistic problems would arise which would have to be worked out in coordination with the Thai authorities and consideration would also have to be given to US activities in the area. The schedule for combined training with elements of the US Seventh Fleet, in which CincFe, ComNavFe, Seventh Fleet and other tactical units are involved, would have to be modified and time does not allow for all these arrangements to be made.

Your idea was a good one, but I think you will appreciate it is not practical at this time to include Bangkok in the summer cruise. I shall ask the Chief of Naval Operations to keep your suggestion in mind for the future.

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