

**April 19, 1956**  
**Report No. 80 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123255>

**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on US policy towards the Philippines, complications regarding the appointment of the Filipino ambassador to the US, and the reparation settlement between Philippines and Japan.

**Credits:**

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Original Scan

Report No. 80

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

April 19, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The furor over American policy in the Philippines flared up anew as President Magsaysay showed impatience over the U.S. government's failure to act on the Philippines' omnibus claims amounting to more than \$860 million. When U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles was here last March 15, the President handed to the former a letter accompanied with an aide memoire setting the amount in detail of what the U.S. government pledged to recompense for the damage suffered during the Jap occupation and also certain taxes levied on the Philippine products that entered into the U.S. and which were to be reverted to the Philippines when the Philippines was granted complete independence.

President Magsaysay has delayed the concurrence on the appointment of Albert Nufer as Ambassador to the Philippines which was submitted several weeks ago. Some Nacionalista senators favor James Langley, who was co-author of the Laurel-Langley Trade Revision Act. The Nacionalista law makers are persuading the President that Langley would be affably acceptable to the Philippines since the problems between the PI-US are mainly economic. It will be the second time in the PI-US relations that an ambassador-designate of America has been turned down by the Philippine Government. The first to be rejected was William S.B. Lacy because of the opposition aired by Congress and some sections of the local press.

Senators Claro M. Recto and Lorenzo M. Tafiada warned that the U.S. should not interfere with the mining exploitation project near the U.S. military reservation - Clark Air Base. Vice President Garcia pressed through the American Embassy to grant immediate blanket consent to the exploitation of mines and oil resources located within all U.S. military reservations. Senator Recto is retained a Filipino mining operator.

Aiichiro Fujiyama, personal envoy of Premier Hatoyama, returned to Manila with instructions from the Japanese Cabinet for smoothing out final differences on the reparations settlement with the Philippines. However, the Japanese government does not want to legally bind itself for the implementation of \$250 million private loan as stipulated in the settlement

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provision. The Japanese government hopes to conclude a treaty of commerce and navigation on the basis of most favored nation status with the Philippines as soon as the reparations issue is formalized. Three Japanese bankers have come to survey the possibilities of opening branches in Manila. They plan to handle \$250 million development loan under the settlement agreement. However, the Filipinos insist that all the loans must go through Filipino banks.

The US Air Force will hold a mock air raid show from May 5 to 9 when all types of jet planes will come from air bases in Singapore, Japan, Guam, Hawaii and US Mainland to participate in the display of aerial might and coverage over Manila. A civilian air drill will also be conducted on a nationwide range. Last week the British jet planes flew here on a goodwill mission flight.

Faithfully yours,

*Young Kee Kim.*  
YOUNG/KEE KIM

Incl:

Copy of Summary Report of the ECAFE Conference

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

Copy to the Honorable Chung Whan Cho

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