

April 14, 1956

Letter, Syngman Rhee to Young Kee Kim

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Summary:

President Rhee comments on the anti-American sentiment prevalent in the Philippines.

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To Minister Young Kee Kim, Manila

From the President

Having just returned from Chinhae I am a little behind with my correspondence, but I now have before me your Reports Nos. 78 and 79 and copies of weekly reports to the Foreign Minister, all of which I have read with interest,

I am pleased you had an opportunity of exhibiting Korean wares at the Philippine International Friendship Organization and addressed the members on the History of Korean Culture. The program had good variety and I feel sure it was enjoyed.

I note that anti-American feeling is again very strong in the Philippines. I think the Eastern tour of Mr. Dulles must have been an eye-opener to the American Government. I don't think it had previously been realized how much had been lost in Asia and am sure Mr. Dulles will have often said to himself during his tour. "It is our loss and the Communists' gain". Perhaps the Americans will even come to realize the remainder of the free world will fall into the Communist lap without a struggle if their policies are pursued as at present. But I doubt that they will come out of their complacency and reassert themselves.

I am glad you talked with the outgoing French Ambassador concerning Korea's membership to the SEATO. I feel sure his efforts on our behalf will carry a lot of weight and I am grateful.