



November 5, 1957

Letter, Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Secretary Park reports on relations between the Philippines and Japan and the Philippines Acting Foreign Secretary Serrano's proposal to link SEATO, NATO, and the Baghdad Pact.

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Your Excellency:

I have the honor to submit the weekly report inviting Your Excellency's attention to the following issues; the relations between the Philippines and Japan; and, PI Acting Foreign Secretary Serrano's proposal for the linking up of three regional defense organizations, namely, SEATO, NATO, and the Baghdad Pact.

On November 2, I attended the Chinese Opera presented by the Chinese Goodwill Mission upon invitation from Chinese Ambassador Chen Chih-mai.

On November 4, on the occasion of the 61st birthday of Carlos P. Garcia, Philippine president, I sent a congratulatory message in my capacity as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

On the same day, I invited Mr. Robert Aura Smith, editor of the New York Times, who has recently visited Korea. The prime purpose of his trip here is to collect material for his book "Philippine Freedom After the First Decade" which is due to be published next spring, and to observe the coming November elections. He is leaving for Saigon on November 14. I notified our Legation in Saigon regarding his departure.

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1957*

On November 6, I attended the regular monthly consular luncheon.

PI-Japanese relations were none the better this week despite the frequency of bilateral meetings between the PI Acting Foreign Secretary and the Japanese ambassador. The tense situation was further aggravated this week with the filing by Japan of a protest against the new policy of the PI Commissioner of Immigration limiting the period of stay here of Japanese nationals to 15 days after the expiration of the original 30-day period, in addition to PI restrictions regarding travel to Japan. Before the order, Japanese temporary visitors had been allowed two 30-day extensions after the lapse of the original 30-day period.

In connection with the Kishi plan, it is reported that as India proposed to obtain 500 million dollars from the United States


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for its economic development, too, American officials foresaw a conflict in Congress against both India and Kishi programs with one bid being used against the other.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister, referring to the Kishi Plan, said here that though he has not much knowledge about the Plan, it seems that the financial source of the Plan is not definite, and that, as his government wishes to mediate the economic development under the Colombo Plan, he had submitted at the Colombo Plan conference recently held in Saigon a proposal to set up an Asian economic development fund similar to the Kishi Plan, and the proposal had drawn sympathetic reactions from delegates to the conference.

Shortly after a closed-door talk with US Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen, the PI Acting Foreign Secretary last October 31 proposed to seek common cause with SEATO countries for a close-knit anti-Communist front composed of all members of Western regional defense alliances. His suggestion is a virtual link-up of NATO, SEATO, and the Baghdad Pact to ensure simultaneous and instantaneous action by all member nations in the event of a global conflict. He stressed the Philippines would make definite moves if he felt that other SEATO nations were disposed to cooperate with his proposal. It is indicated that considering the SEATO the weakest of the three alliances, one of the primary objectives of his plan would be to strengthen SEATO and place it on par with the other two organizations from both military and economic standpoints.

Respectfully submitted,


HO JOON PARK
Second Secretary
and Consul

His Excellency
Chung Wnan Cho
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul, Korea

Copy submitted to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.