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Letter, Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Secretary Park reports on the Philippines' restrictions regarding travel to Japan, Japanese economic envoy Ataru Kobayashi's comment on Philippines' attitude towards the Kishi plan, and Filipino students' demonstration against Japan.

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October 29, 1957

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency the weekly report inviting your attention to the following important issues: PI restrictions regarding travel to Japan; sounding out by Ataru Kobayashi, Japanese economic envoy, of the PI attitude regarding the Kishi plan; and, PI students' demonstration against Japan.

On October 22, Minister Kim left for New Delhi to attend, as chief Korean delegate, the 19th International Red Cross Conference, together with three other delegates who joined him here in Manila. Vice Consul Chung and I saw them off at the airport.

I attended the reception held at the Vietnamese Minister's residence last October 26 on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

On October 28, the Legation entered into a contract with the Philippine National Exposition, Inc. for the construction of the Korean Pavilion under the terms previously arranged by Minister Kim before his departure for India.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs announced that in order to minimize the occurrence of unpleasant incidents affecting Filipino travelers in Japan, it has been decided to restrict the travel of Filipinos to that country only for official business and for exceptionally meritorious cases. The restrictions will apply also to Filipino passengers in transit.

This positive step was taken by the Philippines following a minor incident when Kobayashi, Japanese economic envoy, arrived in Manila on the 4th of October. When Kobayashi arrived at the Manila airport, a Philippine customs guard, not paying the courtesy due to diplomats, shooed off a party of Japanese welcomers headed by the Japanese Ambassador.

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The following day, Japanese embassy officials shabbily treated the Filipinos securing visas. It was felt that these were retaliating against the reported incident at the airport. These Philippine nationals securing visas at the Japanese Embassy complained to the Foreign Office.

Also, during the past months, the Foreign Office had been receiving complaints from Filipinos in Japan that they were being mistreated and discriminated against by Japanese authorities.

During his stay in Manila, Kobayashi, the Japanese economic ambassador, made a round of calls on Acting Foreign Secretary Serrano, the Secretary of Finance, and officials of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce.

He expressed the following opinions: that the Japanese government is determined to push through the Asia Development Plan as envisioned by his government; the Kishi plan has no similarity to the wartime idea of Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere; he desired that the Philippines consider at the earliest possible time the conclusion of a treaty of commerce and navigation in order to put the relations between the Philippines and Japan on a more permanent and stable basis; he had no objection for Japan to trade with Red China but that such should be considered from all international aspects.

However, in this regard, the PI Acting Foreign Secretary said that the Philippines might have to seek the views of other Southeast Asian countries before taking any definite position in the matter, and that the Philippines should not take a unilateral position in connection with the Kishi plan.

The Finance Secretary also indicated that the Philippines would not be too desirous of becoming a member nation because of the special relation between the United States and the Philippines.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines told the Japanese envoy that Japan should view realistically the present economic conditions of the Philippines in working for the so-called Asia Economic Development Fund.

Since Kobayashi's visit here, it has been observed that the relations between the Philippines and Japan have deteriorated instead smoothing out. On October 22, some 70 placard-

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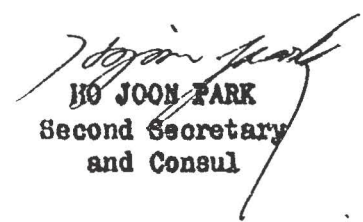
bearing students from two Manila universities marched to the Foreign Office and the Japanese Embassy here demanding the severance of diplomatic relations with Japan and the closure of the Japanese Embassy here, and protesting discretionary acts against Filipino travelers in Japan.

Since the recent visit to the Philippines of Ishii, Japanese Vice Premier, on his way to Saigon to attend the Colombo Plan meeting, both governments are working at present to solve these troublesome problems.

It is also noted that PI Senator Claro M. Recto, presidential candidate in the November elections, warned that a new Japanese imperialism, in the form of an American-sponsored "Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," would again engulf the country if the administration does not resist foreign economic encroachment.

Enclosed herewith are the pictures of PI students demonstrating against the Japanese as they appeared in the Manila Daily Bulletin and the Manila Chronicle of October 23, 1957, and some editorials from the Philippines Herald regarding the Kishi Plan and the imposing of restrictions on PI travel in Japan.

Respectfully submitted,



HO JOON PARK
Second Secretary
and Consul

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

Copy submitted to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.

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