

## **September 1957**

### **Lincoln Hoon Kim, 'Regard to Japan's So-called Southeast Asia Development Fund Plan'**

#### **Citation:**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123376>

#### **Summary:**

Minister L. Hoon Kim reports on Japan's Southeast Asia Development fund plan, listing the possible dangers of the plan.

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Original Scan

CONFIDENTIAL

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Regard to Japan's so-called South-east Asia Development fund Plan

I wish our government should investigate the plan carefully with a full analysis showing all the disadvantages and dangers will be involved to all those countries who will participate the plan. After a careful analysis being made, we should then print it and distribute the copies of it to all our friendly countries for their references. This way we can influence our friendly countries not to involve in this Japanese selfish game.

Followings are some of the points which I think is very dangerous:

1. Japan is trying to demonstrate her-self to the Western World, especially, to America that she is the only country, both economically and technically will have the leadership over the countries of Asia. By doing this she now again try to gain her former economic and political domination in South and South-East Asia.
2. Japan is trying to utilize the opportunity of America's investment in those areas together with Japan's technique and skill so as Japan can monopolize whole Asian market for her machine industry as well as <sup>for</sup> all other her merchandise and technical services. This way in a few years time the whole Asian countries will become the dependers of the Japanese economic system. In other words all the small Asian countries will eventually become the slaves of the Japanese economic system.
3. During last over five decades Japan lost her confidence and friendship among her near and far neighboring countries, such countries as Korea, the Old China, Formosa, Thailand, Burma, Philippines, Indonesia, and Australia through Japan's aggressive behavior and practices. The bitter memory of those people toward the Japanese is still fresh and Japan knows that she can not recover the feelings of those people so soon. That is how Japan tries to put America in between and utilize America's goodwill reference and get all sorts of both economic and political benefits from these areas.
4. The chief dangers of this Development Fund will be as follows:
  - (1) Since the economic activities of a country are so closely connected with the political field, especially in these days, Japan undoubtedly, will soon try to interfere the each country's internal policy with the good name of the economic and the technical assistance through the Development Fund Plan. This way soon the freedom of those Asian countries will <sup>be</sup> lost due to the Japanese interference.
  - (2) In case when Japan faces any disadvantages from any of those countries, that are already in this Development Fund Plan, Japan will likely employ the double-cross trick or blackmail method to suppress that particular country by utilizing the collective influence of all the other small nations. This often was the case especially during the time when Japan took over the Manchurian territory from the Old China. This way Japan will destroy the peace and order within those small countries to become a master of that whole area.
  - (3) This Development Plan will discourage the free will development of each country both politically and economically through the Japanese influence and interference.
  - (4) Japan will eventually destroy all the commercial and economic

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and diplomatic relations of those Asian countries with all other countries by Japan's monopoly in every important activity in Asia as well as it will dominate all.

(5) This Development Fund Plan is very much like the ORIENTAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY which was established by the Japanese masters in Korea during the Japanese Occupation of 36 years. This Company certainly within a few years period occupied all the best pieces of the farm lands through their money lending. I am very much afraid that some day this Development Fund Plan will squeeze out the bloods all those people in the area.

(6) This plan will also aim to gain the China-mainland market as well as India and Indonesian market for the Japanese merchandise. This way Japan will play the double-cross game between the free Asian countries and the Communist China.

*Lee Su-hwan Kim*