

August 20, 1957
**Report No. 128 from Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan
Cho**

Citation:

"Report No. 128 from Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan Cho", August 20, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-082, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
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Summary:

Minister Park briefs Minister Cho on the official reception at the Legation Residence, the upcoming SEATO meeting, and Japan's proposal for an economic conference in Southeast Asia.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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Report No. 128
LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

August 20, 1957

Your Excellency:

On August 15, the Legation held an official reception at the Legation Residence attended by some seventy members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, including the Apostolic Nuncio from the Holy See, the U.S. Ambassador, and the Chinese Ambassador, and Philippine Government officials including Philippine Minister to Korea Cosme P. Garcia. Mr. Constantine Brown of the Washington Evening Star, who is now on his way to Korea with his wife, was also present. During the reception, Minister Tomas de Castro proposed a toast to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee. Our Independence Day indeed seemed to be widely welcomed here. Newspaper clippings in connection with the event are enclosed herewith. In the evening, the Legation held a separate gathering for the small community of Korean residents here.

On the 16th, the Legation received from the Office of the President the acknowledging cable for our congratulatory message to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee on the anniversary of the proclamation of our Independence. We also received a letter from Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus notifying us of his sending a message of congratulations from President Garcia to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee on the occasion of our Independence Day.

Upon receipt of a cable from Minister Lincoln H. Kim regarding his arrival here on the 22nd, I called on Mr. Jose S. Estrada, Chief of Protocol, for the pre-arrangements in connection with the presentation of Minister Kim's credentials.

Mr. and Mrs. Constantine Brown left for Taipei enroute to Seoul last August 16. Vice Consul Chung and I saw them off at the Manila International Airport.

On the 17th, I attended the inaugural gathering held at the College of Nursing of the University of Santo Tomas to celebrate the Nursing School's elevation to the status of a College in the University.

On August 19, I attended the ceremony in honor of the late

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President Manuel L. Quezon on the occasion of his 79th birthday anniversary. A civic and military parade was held at Luneta Park after which President Garcia delivered an address.

On August 20, the Legation received a letter from the General Chairman of the 2nd Asian Dental Congress inviting Korean delegates for the above mentioned Congress and the Asian-Pacific Dental Conference to be held simultaneously on March 24-30, 1958. In this regard, the Legation sent an official letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the August 18th issue of the "Manila Bulletin", it was reported that the "Korean Republic" has proposed that the Philippines, Vietnam, and Korea jointly issue a free Asian declaration as the first step toward an Asian alliance against communist, Japanese, or any other aggression.

Last August 11, William Pan of the English China News reported from Tokyo that Japan may resort to military expansion again as it moves toward a national crisis resulting from over-population and over-production. These are two pre-war problems of Japan which, instead of being solved by the ten years of war, may have been compounded as Japan's post-war territory has been considerably curtailed and industrial production greatly increased.


It is reportedly predicted that the next meeting of SEATO will be held in Manila in February, 1958. Pote Surasin, Thailand's ambassador to the United States, who will soon become the first Secretary-General of SEATO, stated last August 15 in Washington that he had received a personal letter from Thailand Prime Minister, Marshall Phibul Songgram, in which the Marshall said he considered SEATO to be of utmost importance to Thailand. The Thailand ambassador also remarked that if the big powers neglect SEATO, it will result in an increase of neutralism and communism in Southeast Asia.

Japan was reported to be working on a plan which would put trade with Asia on a two-way basis. Tentative plans were to call for an economic conference of Southeast Asian nations. The chief difference of this plan from previous economic programs is that it views trade from the standpoint of the other nations. One of its main points is that it would try to set a fixed volume of rice imports chiefly from Thailand, Burma, and the Indonesian Republic every year. This would enable these countries to set up plans for

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purchases from Japan. The plan would be linked with the Southeast Asia development fund scheme which Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi proposed on his tour of Asia earlier this year.

Respectfully submitted,


HO JOON PARK
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim

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

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.