

July 15, 1957

Report No. 123 from Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan Cho

Citation:

"Report No. 123 from Ho Joon Park to Chung Whan Cho", July 15, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-099, 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 Prime Minister Kishi's visit to Southeast Asian countries.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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Your Excellency:

I arrived Manila on the 10th of July via Hongkong, and the Legation here immediately notified the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Dean of the Consular Corps, and the other Foreign Missions here in Manila accordingly. During my courtesy call on Mr. Jose S. Estrada, Chief of the Protocol Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs, I discussed with him regarding my being Chargé d'Affaires a.i., pending the arrival of the new Minister to the Philippines. As I have already cabled Your Excellency, official practice here renders Mr. Chung Do Soon unable to notify the Philippine Government regarding my designation as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. I have courteously requested Your Excellency therefore to inform the Philippine Acting Foreign Secretary directly of my designation.

As the Dean of the Consular Corps, Greek Consul General George L. Adamson, was indisposed a few days after my arrival, it was only today that I was able to make my courtesy call on him.

It has been announced by a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman that the Japanese envoys in Southeast Asian countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Australia, and New Zealand have been instructed to make necessary arrangements with the respective governments of these countries for the proposed tour of Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi in mid-November. This trip is presumably to lay the groundwork for the Asia Development Plan which closely resembles the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere scheme of World War II. The editorial of The Manila Times, the leading paper here, expressed the following views: the Philippines recognizes the fact that this Plan, which will undoubtedly be a complex one, will have such attractive features as the training of technical men in Tokyo or other Southeast Asian centers, and that the Philippines cannot afford to ignore this Plan which may become regional in scale once it is taken up by other Southeast Asian countries. At the same time, this Plan, marking Japan's resurgence as an industrial power, invites caution since there is the great possibility of Philippine economic interests being imperilled or set back by having the country placed in a frankly subordinate position. The Philippines realizes that it cannot afford to join up if it means exposing itself

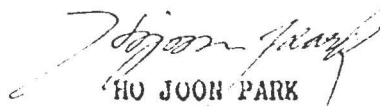
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to economic domination in the hands of the Japanese.

In President Garcia's campaign tour of the Bicol region in the southern part of Luzon Province, Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, who is from Bicolandia himself, announced that he has been authorized to pledge that the 128 delegates of the Bicol bloc, comprising six Bicol provinces, would support the incumbent president at the forthcoming Nacionalista Party national convention late this month.

President Garcia has accepted Acting Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus' resignation which the latter had previously submitted because of a "moral obligation" to his law office. It is believed, however, that Mr. Manglapus resigned for political reasons and is expected to join up with other former close associates of the late President Magsaysay who had already left the government to form the Progressive Party of the Philippines. Political observers further believe that Manglapus' resignation is part of the plan of the former associates of the late President Magsaysay to try to discredit the administration of President Garcia.

With renewed sentiments of loyalty,


HO JOON PARK
Second Secretary
and Consul

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

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.

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