

June 22, 1957
**Report No. 121 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan
Cho**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the Philippines-Japan trade agreement and Philippines' industry and trade information.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

Upon receipt of the radiogram from Kerpital on the morning of June 14 instructing me to leave Manila, a formal note was sent to Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus informing him of the termination of my tour of duty from the date of departure June 23, 1957, and designation of Do Soon Chung, Third Secretary and Vice Consul, as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim until the arrival of newly appointed Minister Lincoln H. Kim.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I had to postpone the departure date to July 2. It is customary for the Philippine government to tender a formal dinner to a departing diplomatic mission chief, and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manglapus whose mourning period in memory of his mother expires on June 30 wanted to honor me with a formal dinner on July 1 which I cannot very well decline.

There are so many things to be done on the eve of departure and it takes a couple of weeks to wind up affairs in connection with transferring the Chancery to Do Soon Chung, packing up some accumulated personal effects to be shipped to Rome and preparations for our long distance traveling by air.

We plan to stay five days in Hong Kong to have some suits and dresses made. I am told by the Italian ambassador that I should have a cut-away formal suit to wear when I present the letters of credence to the President, a tail coat for formal wearing and another one for semi-formal occasions. Louisa will have to have some winter Korean dresses made since she has none except some summer dresses, and an adequate wardrobe for special occasions. Some winter clothes must be made in Hong Kong where the cost is much less than in Rome. Therefore, I shall leave Hong Kong on July 3 arriving in Seoul in the afternoon of the same day.

The PI-Japan representatives have been negotiating the trade agreement for the last two weeks but the impasse that blocks the progress is the Japanese insistence to include a clause for an "unconditional most favored nation." The Philippine panel received fresh instructions from the President to reject Japan's persistent demand. The

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Philippines is against giving Japan an unconditional most favored nation treatment because the proposed agreement would become a treaty which is to be ratified by the Senate.

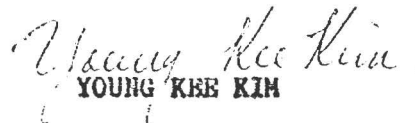
Saburo Endoh, member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan came here as personal envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuki Kishi to prepare the ground for the visit of Kishi in the near future. His observations on PI conditions will be used as a basis of his talk with the Philippine government leaders in shaping Japanese policy towards the Philippines.

The Philippine wood industry consisting of lumber, mahogany, and plywood ranks fourth in value of Philippine exports which earns \$25 million dollars. The Washington legislators proposed the curb of lumber importation from the Philippines from 15 million sq. ft. in 1956 to the average of 714,000 sq. ft. in 1951-53. The curbing of importation of plywood from foreign countries means not only the restriction to the Philippines alone but it hits more directly to Japan.

The Philippine Taiwan trade in 1956 is valued at NT\$29,858,605 with the Philippine exports mostly in lumber amounting to NT\$28,184,194 and imports NT\$4,736,457 leaving a NT\$25 million balance in favor of the Philippines.

The total volume of trade between the Philippines and Germany in 1956 favors Germany with its exports to the Philippines amounting to P25,368,905 and its imports from the Philippines aggregating P11,567,143.

Yours truly,


YOUNG KEE KIM

Minister Chung Whan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.

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