

**June 1957**

**A Draft of Greetings Addressed to President of Italy  
Giovanni Gronchi by Minister Young Kee Kim**

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**Summary:**

Minister Kim gives a speech in honor of President Gronchi, promoting friendship between Korea and Italy.

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GREETINGS ADDRESSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY GIOVANNI GRONCHI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY, BY MINISTER YOUNG KEE KIM, ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO ITALY.

I am very happy, Mr. President, to present to Your Excellency the letter of credence from the President of the Republic of Korea accrediting me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to your beautiful country, cradle of Christian civilization so rich in culture and art.

Mr. President, I consider it my great privilege to come to your country to promote friendly relations that will bring mutual benefit to our two nations. In deep gratitude and appreciation, I acknowledge my appointment by the President of Korea and Your Excellency's approval and willingness to receive me as the first diplomatic representative from Korea to Italy.

May I be permitted to convey to Your Excellency deep appreciation and gratitude from President Rhee and the people of Korea for the heroic sacrifices and service your gallant physicians and nurses rendered to the United Nations forces in our struggle to fight Communist aggression in Korea. We are eternally grateful to you and your people.

Korea was a battlefield for three grim, desolate years, and the Korean people, under the great leadership of President Rhee, sacrificed their lives and property to preserve independence and freedom. Our people owe profound gratitude to the United Nations and freedom-loving peoples for their precious sacrifice, and the spectacle of courageous soldiers shedding their blood in common with fifteen allied

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nations in the United Nations war in Korea for the cause of democracy and dignity of mankind will remain an indelible memory in our hearts.

The reconstruction and rehabilitation of Korea is still in progress, and the Korean people are indebted to those nations who, for the cause of freedom, have made generous contributions not only in money and in kind, but also in incalculable moral support and technical assistance.

The unification of Korea is a problem that remains unsolved. We hope and pray that our national goal of a united and democratic Korea be accomplished with the constant and sympathetic support of free democratic nations of which the great Republic of Italy is an important member. The Republic of Korea and her people are looking forward to having Your Excellency as a good friend and vigorous champion of freedom in our arduous task of achieving the reunification of our country.

In submitting my credentials, I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency and the good people of the Republic of Italy, on behalf of the people of Korea and myself, our very best wishes and the sincere hope that the ties of amity, realized during the time of struggle, may be even more strengthened in this time of peace.

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