

June 10, 1957
**Report No. 120 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan
Cho**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the arrival of the former U.S Ambassador to Moscow Charles E. Bohlen.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

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I am informed by the Foreign Office that the Philippine government desires to exchange note with our government implementing the elevation of the legation to embassy level after July at the beginning of fiscal year 1957-58. Due to lack of funds, the rotation of foreign service personnel has been suspended, and Minister Garcia would be coming here for consultation in the early part of July. The Nacionalista Party convention will be held sometime in July and the incumbent President would be chosen as its party standard bearer by majority vote. In the event that Garcia's nomination is fully assured, Minister Garcia will devote his full time to his brother's political campaign which he has been accustomed to do during his brother's twenty seven years of political life. To avoid public criticism, Minister Garcia would very likely resign from his post.

The influenza epidemic that has gripped the country, with 806 fatalities throughout the nation, delayed the opening of the schools. The "flu" epidemic reportedly originated in Singapore and spread out to the southeast Asian nations.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Charles E. Bohlen arrived here and assumed the duties of his new post. Philippine foreign policy makers are anxious to reopen the jurisdiction row which has been snarled following the sudden death of U.S. Ambassador Hufer last summer. In expressing the Philippine sentiment, Undersecretary of Justice Jesus Barrera, a member of the bases panel and chairman of the committee on jurisdiction urges an early resumption of military bases negotiations. In view of the William Girard case in the fatal shooting of a Japanese woman and the Taipei riot, the U.S. government is reluctant to heed the Philippine request for the panel discussion of the military jurisdiction issue in the Philippines. In fact, the

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administration is not in a receptive mood to get involved in the controversial question of Filipinism - the political slogan of the national elections. Putting off the bases talk would save embarrassment on both sides.

12/13/52

Language barrier is a problem when I take up the Rome post. I am told that many Italians speak English or French. I would appreciate it if you would kindly appoint a French-speaking secretary from your ministry who can assist me in establishing a new legation in Rome. I bought an Italian book to learn simple Italian way of speaking.

Yours truly,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Minister Chung Vhan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.