

April 29, 1957
**Report No. 116 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan
Cho**

Citation:

"Report No. 116 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho", April 29, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-136, 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.
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123414>

Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the bills that have passed the Philippines Congress and the presidential nomination.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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Dear Minister Cho:

For the duration of my three-week leave ending April 24, I am gratified to report to you that Do Soon Chung, Third Secretary, took charge of the legation as *Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*. Certainly, I appreciated the President's kind consideration in granting me an opportunity to visit Korea and observe the changes that took place during the one year interval. It is an inspiration to obtain up-to-date information on the progress and development of Korea and in many ways it helps me to enlighten the seekers on present-day Korea.

The one month mourning period on the death of the late President Magsaysay ended on April 17 and social calendars are crowded with all sorts of parties. The Filipinos are *gay* people.

The Congress has about twenty days left to wind up its legislative task. The most important bills - budget, public works, and anti-Communist bill have not been passed. Preliminary presidential campaigns for nomination are waged by the political party aspirants. The Philippine political dilemma will remain unsolved until the bidding of Senator Jose P. Laurel for the presidency is definitely decided. The Senator reaffirmed his decision to seek the presidential nomination at the Nacionalista party convention. He said he would fight his eldest son, now Speaker of the House, who is considered as running mate of the incumbent as Vice President.

Last week, Australian Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies was here on a two-day state visit. Mr. Menzies spoke before the joint session of Congress. He underscored the need for a "strong and free congress", and added that "every opposition should have a government. It is very dull life, if the people do not argue."

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, S.H. Suhrawardy, is scheduled to arrive here enroute back to his country from Japan to be official state guest of the Philippines. Japanese Ambassador Koichiro Asakai who has been here about eight months

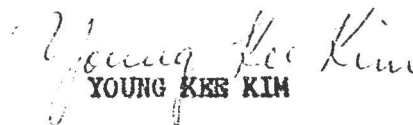
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will be leaving soon for his Washington post to make further arrangements with the State department for the forthcoming state visit of Prime Minister Nobushke Kishi.

On our inquiry, the Department of Foreign Affairs informed us that the Korean-Philippines Trade Agreement which was submitted by our government is still under consideration and assured us of an early opportunity for discussion by both parties.

I am informed that seven officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will visit Manila at the invitation of the Philippine ICA. The trip for the Korean agricultural officials was once formerly sponsored last September by the American agricultural experts of the local ICA. Although the Koreans are coming here as the guests of the local ICA, I would appreciate it if the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry informs us in advance of the officials' names and positions.

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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