

**April 8, 1957**  
**Report No. 115 from Do Soon Chung to Syngman  
Rhee**

**Citation:**

"Report No. 115 from Do Soon Chung to Syngman Rhee", April 8, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-141, 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/123419>

**Summary:**

Do Soon Chung briefs President Rhee on the presidential candidate nomination in the Philippines.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan



Report No. 115

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA

April 8, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to submit to Your Excellency my periodical report in the absence of Minister Young Kee Kim from the Philippines.

Senator Jose P. Laurel's bid for the presidency in the November poll has been formally announced by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, the senator's eldest son. After a conference in Malacañang last April 4, both President Garcia and Sen. Laurel announced that they would abide by the outcome of the Nacionalista party convention. This was contrary to the reports that Laurel was withdrawing from the race in order to pave the way for a Garcia-Laurel Jr. team. To strengthen further the conviction that the elder Laurel was not withdrawing, Speaker Laurel, Jr. has asserted that he will not accept the Vice Presidency in re-electionist Garcia's ticket.

President Garcia has ruled out Manila Mayor Lacson as his running-mate because both of them come from the South. Lacson has launched his presidential candidacy and declared that he will not enter the convention of the Nacionalistas. If Senator Gil Puyat, who has presidential aspirations himself, declines to be Garcia's running-mate, Senate Majority Floor Leader Cipriano Primicias who comes from the North may be drafted, according to NP leaders. Senator Quintin Paredes has also said that he would definitely submit his name as presidential aspirant during the NP convention.

In the opposition, <sup>former Speaker</sup> Jose Yulo is being set up as the Liberal Party candidate. Yulo has reportedly asked Ambassador Romulo to be his running-mate but the Philippine ambassador said that he has foredorn domestic politics and intends to devote himself to foreign affairs. Romulo said that only if it were absolutely necessary would he throw his hat into the political ring.

With regards to the third party, Senator Recto is set to break away from the Nacionalistas and organize his own party. He said that he would form his party before the conventions of both the Nacionalista and Liberal parties take place in June or July.

President Garcia directed Ambassador Romulo by cable to muster all support for pending bills in the US Congress, which are designed to bring benefits to Philippine veterans. Among these bills are: 1) the proposed Teague amendment to the Rogers law which provides for continued hospitalization assistance until 1959, payment for the care of service-connected disabled Filipino veterans for a period of five fiscal years with the total payment not to exceed P2 million in any fiscal year, out-patient treatment for veterans determined by the Veterans Administration, authorization to be given to the US President with the concurrence of the Republic of the Philippines to permit the hospitalization of non-service-connected Filipino veterans.

The other bills for which Garcia has instructed Romulo to press aid are in connection with the consolidating and simplifying of laws administered by the US Veterans Administration relating to compensation, pension, hospital and burial benefits, penal and regulatory provisions, domiciliary benefits; the repeal of the provisions of the law which requires that payments to Philippine pensioners be on the basis of one Philippine peso to one US dollar; the liberalization of criteria for eligibility of widows for benefits; and the continued payment of allotments to dependents of veterans who are on a missing status.

With regard to the Korean Cultural Mission whose schedule also included the Philippines, we have received a communication from the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League of Korea, dated Feb. 18, 1957. Upon receipt of this communication, we contacted the Philippine Chapter of the APACL (Philippine Anti-Communist Movement) and were advised that they are willing to sponsor the performances of the Cultural Mission here. But due to the sudden death of President Magsaysay, we were advised by cable by Your Excellency's office to withhold action until further instructions. According to the AP News dispatch from Seoul, the Mission left Korea April 2. We should like to be informed as to the date of their arrival, how long they expect to stay, and other detailed programs to be performed here. This information will be essential-needed for the arrangements to be made beforehand in order to have successful performances. The Philippine Navy authorities have also informed us that they should be advised concerning the frequencies, call sign, type of waves and other information regarding the Korean navy vessel chartered by the Missioners.

Your obedient servant,

*Do Soon Chung*  
DO SOON CHUNG  
Third Secretary  
and Vice Consul

His Excellency President Syngman Rhee, Seoul, Korea  
Copy sent to Minister Chung Whan Cho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*2 cc Mr. Park  
April 10  
As reported, the mission stopped to go over the death of President Magsaysay & accordingly this will be further discussed when Mr. Wang Chin-Hang.*