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Report No. 114 from Do Soon Chung to Chung Hwan Cho

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Summary:

Minister Chung briefs Minister Cho on the Moral Re-armament Assembly in Baguio City from March 29th to April 8th.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

Hon. Yoon Sung Soon, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly, Mr. Chung Joon, member of the National Assembly, Miss Hyun Sook Park, and two others have been attending the Moral Re-armament Assembly in Baguio City which began last March 29 and will end on April 8. On April 1, Hon. Yoon Sung Soon spoke before the 175 delegates from 24 nations at the Pines Hotel. He expressed confidence that the MRA's principles of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love can help change the world situation, resolve the international tension and national problems. He cited differences between Korea and Japan saying that these difficulties could be solved only through the MRA spirit. Among the other speakers was Miro Hoshijima, a co-signatory to the Japanese peace treaty at the San Francisco conference, and a veteran member of the Japanese Diet. He read Japanese Prime Minister Noboshuke Kishi's message which stated that the Japanese Prime Minister was one of those who look forward to the day when all peoples of Asia shall unite in friendship and stand ready to help one another. Kishi's statement added that a re-awakening to moral and spiritual values was vastly important. The MRA Japanese delegate Hoshijima who had been in the Philippines in 1955 with another MRA mission apologized for the wrongs committed by the Japanese during the last war. Hoshijima said that the relations between Korea and Japan are not what they should be and that this is primarily the responsibility of the Japanese. A Japanese woman senator, Shidzue Kato also made a moving apology to both the Philippine and Korean peoples for the wrongs done to them during the war.

Last April 4, the Philippine National Economic Council unanimously approved the proposed draft of a protocol providing for cash trade with Japan as soon as the current trade and financial agreements, known as the "open account" system and in force since 1950, expire on April 30, 1957. The NEC decision has been forwarded to the cabinet for final deliberation. Main points in this proposed protocol which Acting Presiding Officer Eduardo Z. Romualdes stated would be a temporary arrangement until a permanent treaty of commerce and navigation could be entered into, are:

- a) adherence to principles of multilateral trade and payments;
- b) a "most favored nation" treatment with regard to customs duties,


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harbor dues, excise taxes as well as formalities connected with these; c) non-discrimination with regard to import procedures and regulations; d) uniform treatment with similar textile manufactures from third parties will be accorded to Japanese textile manufacturers; e) imposition of quotas by one party if the other party resorts to import quotas on a geographically differentiated basis; f) the United States is exempted from this protocol; g) mutual help and enforcement of trade and exchange controls. The NEC has pointed out that the foreign office had assisted in the preparation of the draft and therefore could be presumed to concur.

In the 40th session of the International Labor Organisation to be held in Geneva in June this year, the Philippines is planning to make a bid for an elective seat in the governing body. According to Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevosco, the Philippines is the logical contender for one of the elective seats by reason of geographical situation. Ceylon is expected to be the chief rival for this seat for Asia. Adevosco said that he would communicate through the foreign office with other member countries of the ILO for support of the Philippine candidacy.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmud Fawzi announced that the Egyptian government will open a legation in Manila soon. The Egyptian Foreign Minister made this statement following the appointment of a Philippine minister to Cairo.

Yours very truly,


LO SOON CHUNG
Third Secretary
and Vice Consul

Minister Chung Wan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.