

March 28, 1957
**Report No. 114 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the political impact of President Magsaysay's death.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

March 28, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

Hardly has the nation got over the shock of President Magsaysay's untimely death when a good number of ambitious politicians are already engaged in political maneuvers aiming at the presidential nomination at the coming political party conventions which are scheduled to be held after the present congress is adjourned in May. The political arena is wide open; and eight possible aspirants have been mentioned for the nation's top post. President Carlos P. Garcia, Senator Jose P. Laurel, Senator Claro M. Recto, Senator Gil J. Puyat, Nacionalista Party; Senator Fernando Lopez, former Speaker Jose Yulo, Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and former Judge Antonio Quirino, Liberal Party. Leaders of President Garcia and Senator Gil J. Puyat started their cross country drive to canvass for the delegates' votes on the bidding of presidential nominations. Garcia has been urged by party leaders to go out to the grassroots to gauge the public sentiment in the support of his bidding for the presidential nomination at the Nacionalista Party convention.

President Garcia pledged to carry out policies and programs of the late President Magsaysay, and repeated his promise of adherence to the cause of Philippine-American understanding and friendship. He knows that his country's security is inextricably linked with powerful America.

On the issue of communism, he is unequivocally uncompromising. President Garcia declared at the commencement exercises of the Manila Law College, "There can be no compromise between light and darkness, between a government of, for, and by the people and a government of dictators, between freedom and communism."

Two cables from Korpital were delivered in the late afternoon of March 21 designating me as the President's personal representative at the state funeral of the late President Magsaysay the following morning. In haste, the Protocol Officer of the Philippine Foreign Affairs Office was verbally informed of the cable message from the President instructing me to attend the state funeral as President Rhee's personal envoy, and later on, an official note to that effect was immediately dispatched

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to the Department of Foreign Affairs. A floral wreath in the name of President Rhee was delivered to the congress hall where the remains of Mr. Magsaysay lay in state for the conclusion of the necrological services.

I was glad that though belated, Korea was one of the eight nations that designated personal envoys to represent their respective Chief Executives at the state funeral. The Philippines was one of the sixteen allied nations who shed their blood to help Korea preserve her independence and freedom. While Magsaysay was Secretary of Defense and President of the Republic, several contingents of Philippine Battalion Combat Teams were sent to Korea during the war.

I was going to send a cable to Formin suggesting the designation of President Rhee's representative at the state funeral and offering the floral wreath in the name of the President, but on second thought, I reluctantly deferred for my good intention might have been misconstrued as presumptuous.

In compliance with your directive No. 35 under date of March 14, I will quietly leave Manila on April 3, arriving in Seoul on April 4. In your directive dated March 21 which arrived this afternoon, it is stated that you have sent me a cable instructing me to return to Korea after the funeral. But as I received no cable directive to that effect, it was not possible for me to leave here earlier.

Your obedient servant,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee
President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to Minister Chung Whan Cho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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