

March 20, 1957
**Report No. 112 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan
Cho**

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Summary:

Minister Kim briefs Minister Cho on the public's reaction to the President Magsaysay's death and his funeral.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

I received your cablegram of March 19 with the message of condolence which I immediately transmitted to Undersecretary Raul Manglapus who was sworn in as Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs by newly inducted President Carlos P. Garcia yesterday. A copy of the letter of condolence is enclosed herewith.

The Philippines has really taken to heart the death of the late President Magsaysay. It is deeply felt by all as a national tragedy and he will be long remembered by the Filipinos as well as the other peoples of the free world. The remains of the late president, which were brought to Manila yesterday afternoon from the scene of the crash northwest of Cebu island, will be interred on Friday, March 22 at noon. Yesterday, large crowds which were almost uncontrollable jammed the airport and the streets as the remains were taken to Malacañang Palace where more people were waiting to be admitted to pay their respects. According to the newspapers, the cause of the accident was probably the pilot's error in estimating the power of the engine in attempting to hurdle a high mountain with an overloaded plane before gaining altitude over the sea. Instead of clearing the peak the plane crashed against it, killing 26 of the passengers including the president, Secretary of Education Gregorio Hernandez and Brig. General Benito Ebuena of the Philippine Air Force. There was a lone survivor, a reporter, who has been pronounced out of danger.

Personal representatives of the Chiefs of the United States, Vietnam, and Japan are reportedly coming here to be present at the late President Magsaysay's funeral services on March 22 which has been declared a holiday by President Garcia. Personal floral wreaths from President Eisenhower and the President of the Republic of Germany are included in the list of floral offerings.

Requiem masses and necrological services are to be held starting today at Malacañang and then at the Session Hall of Congress. President Garcia's first proclamation provided for a 30-day mourning period throughout the Philippines. After his oath of office, he


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pledged to support and carry on the late president's program, and he held in abeyance the courtesy resignations of the Cabinet members. Although President Magasayay's death leaves the field wide open for aspirants to the presidency, a moratorium on politics has been declared by Congress and party leaders, notable Senate President Rodriguez, Speaker Laurel, Senators Claro Recto, Jose P. Laurel, and Tañada. Both chambers of Congress have adjourned and will resume deliberations only after the burial.

President Garcia received the diplomatic corps yesterday morning at Malacañang. The foreign office portfolio will be kept by him, and after the induction of Manglapus as Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, President Garcia issued his first foreign policy statement. He underscored the maintenance of national security, the fight against communism, and compliance with the SEATO commitments as well as the commitments for mutual defense with the United States.

Until the present time, we have received no news at all concerning the secretary-receptionist for the Legation here in Manila. I shall greatly appreciate it if you would let me know regarding the matter and expedite the issuing of her passport and visa to the Philippines.

Yours very truly,


YOUNG KEE KIM

Dr. Chung Whan Cho
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee