

**March 18, 1957**  
**Report No. 113 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the passing of President Magsaysay.

**Credits:**

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**Contents:**

Original Scan

Report No. 113LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA

March 18, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

I have transmitted through the Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs the letter of condolence and deepest sympathy contained in your radio message which arrived here at noon. A copy of the letter of condolence is herewith enclosed.

The Philippine nation is stunned and shocked to learn of the untimely passing of their beloved President Magsaysay who met death in a plane accident enroute to Manila from his speech engagements on Cebu island. The tragic death of a great leader of free nations is an irreparable loss to the Philippines as well as to the free world. Following the official confirmation of the President's accidental death, I sent to Mrs. Magsaysay a personal letter of condolence and deepest sympathy.

Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, who attended the SEATO conference in Canberra, will be rushed back to Manila this afternoon to take up the reins of the government. Arrangements for the state funeral for the late President Magsaysay and the duration of national mourning will be announced later after the Vice President is officially inducted into the office of the president. Garcia, born on November 4, 1896 in Talibon, Bohol, has been in politics for the last 28 years. He is a scholar and an orator.

Foreign Undersecretary Raul Manglapus emerged as the likely candidate for the post of SEATO secretary-general recently created at the Third SEATO conference at Canberra. Philippine Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and Thai Foreign Minister Prince Wan Waithayakon are out of the question for the post because of the current positions they hold at the U.N.O.

The selection of Secretary-general is narrowed down to Asian member nationals while the deputy will be filled by non-Asian member nationals. The annual budget of \$700,000 will be proportioned on the following basis: 1/3 by the Philippines, Thailand, and Pakistan while the other 2/3 is to be borne by England, U.S., France, Australia, and New Zealand.

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Australian Prime Minister R. M. Menzies, who will attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference in London, may stop here several days enroute to London or back to Canberra. The Australian Chargé d' Affaires told me that the Prime Minister was going to pay a state visit last fall but, due to the Suez crisis, his trip was cancelled.

The state visit of Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem to the Philippines which was scheduled from March 25 to 30 has been cancelled.

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.