

**February 18, 1957**  
**Report No. 110 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123445>

**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on President Magsaysay's press secretary's visit to Malaya and recommends inviting the Filipino newsmen to Korea.

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Report No. 110  
**LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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Feb 27*



February 18, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

President Magsaysay's press secretary and four other newsmen returned from Malaya where they were royally welcomed by Malaya's Chief Minister Tengku Abdul Raham. In anticipation of Malaya's independence from the British government on August 31, 1957, J.V. Cruz, mouthpiece of President Magsaysay and several Filipino journalists were invited to get acquainted with the conditions of the Malay Peninsula. Exchange of state visits by the chief executives of both countries was discussed during their talk at Kuala Lumpur. The people of Malaya and the Philippines are from the same racial stock, and the Philippines is willing to help Malaya in psychological warfare against communism. The goodwill tour of the pressmen was initiated by the British embassy here to pave the way for the debut of the independent Malayan government into the family of free nations in Asia.

The Malay Chief Minister indicates keen interest in the SEATO setup because the new independent Malaya government would have to cope with alien Chinese which comprise almost forty percent of the total population in the peninsula. Some six months ago, Vice President Garcia was originally invited to visit Kuala Lumpur as state guest.

*Shawling  
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When the opportune time arises, J.V. Cruz and a few other newsmen can be invited by the Office of Public Information to visit Korea to observe the conditions and report to their government. Cruz, a cabinet member, is considered the "ghost writer" for President Magsaysay's speeches and has tremendous influence in politics. His visit to Korea will bring about re-awakening sense of anti-Communist menace not only in the Philippines but also in neighboring countries like Korea, Taiwan, and other free countries. After the return of Cruz and other pressmen from Taipeh last month, public opinion against the overstaying Chinese nationals here has, to a certain extent, abated. On the question of Korea-Japan peace negotiations, it will be more convincing to the English-speaking people if a third party like the Philippines can pin down the responsibility of deadlock in the peaceful settlement right on Japan instead of Korea. The majority of English-speaking people are ignorant of the situation and blame the Korean side. Therefore, inviting the Philippine newsmen to Korea would accomplish a three-fold objective: 1) to counteract the growing influence of Japanese economic expansion in the Philippines,

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2) strengthen the tie of anti-Communist nations, and 3) promote closer relations and understanding between the two nations.

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.