

January 28, 1957
**Report No. 108 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the regular session of Nacionalista and Liberal Party's concerns.

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Report No. 108
LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 28, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

Faced with a crowded calendar for its regular session which opens today, Nacionalista congressmen as one man would like to declare a moratorium on politics. Speaker Jose Laurel, Jr. made understanding with the President that the administration first consult congress leaders on policy making measures before making them public to prevent controversies. The majority party directs every effort on curbing rising prices and the cost of living, threats of inflation, dwindling dollar reserves despite tight controls, and industrial development.

As far as the Liberal Party is concerned, it ceases to exist as a separate political minority because the majority of congressmen and party leaders of the Liberal Party practically "sold-out" by pledging wholehearted support to Magsaysay's re-election. It is speculated that the Liberal Party made a "secret deal" with the President in which the latter promised several cabinet posts to the Liberal Party men as a reward for their outright support to the Nacionalista presidential nominee at the forthcoming elections. Senator Recto, champion of pro-Filipinism, finally grasped the golden opportunity in solidifying the forces of disgruntled people from Nacionalista and Liberal parties, and organized a third party in opposition to the majority party in power. Magsaysay's arch critic, Recto, openly declared that his decision to run was final and irrevocable. Anyhow, the coming presidential elections would not be a one-candidate affair and the traditional two-party system would be preserved.

Elder statesman Senator Laurel, who put up Magsaysay to beat Quirino in the 1953 elections said that he had promised to support Magsaysay until 1957, and he wants no part in the re-election of Magsaysay. His son, Speaker Laurel, Jr. who aspires to be the presidential nominee himself has not come out for or against Magsaysay because Recto, a favorite son of the same province and family friend of the Laurels, cannot be ignored. The influence of the Laurels will be one of the deciding factors in the presidential elections.

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.

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