

January 11, 1957
**Report No. 106 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the Senator Laurel and Senator Recto's political activities regarding the upcoming election of presidential candidates.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 11, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

With the election of presidential candidates at the political party conventions in the coming summer, Senator Jose P. Laurel, elder statesman of the Philippines, announced in a speech admitting his mistakes in his support of the Magsaysay presidential bid in the 1953 elections. While the fiery Nacionalista Senator Claro M. Recto, a powerful critic of the present administration, declared his intention to challenge the incumbent president at the national election, Laurel suggested a compromise formula to maintain party unity by which Magsaysay and Recto would withdraw from the presidential race in favor of a dark horse.

Laurel might be persuaded by the Nacionalista party to contest the re-election of Magsaysay whose support from the grass roots remains intact. Recto announced he had completed plans for the creation of a new political party to enlist the support of Nacionalista, Liberal, and Peoples' parties whose combined strength at the polls would weaken the respective Nacionalista and Liberal party polls. The proposed name of the third party, "Nationalist Party", is obviously designed to enlist as well as to confuse Nacionalista Party folks.

Senator Tafiada, Peoples' Party, the possessor of a so-called "secret pact" which was signed in early January in 1953 by Mr. Magsaysay when he was defense secretary, declared that Magsaysay promised to decline the Liberal Party nomination for the presidency if offered to him. Recto and Laurel pledged to decline the Nacionalista nomination if offered in favor of Magsaysay and they also pledged to support the election of Magsaysay if nominated. The issue popped up while the re-election of Magsaysay for another term of four years calls for reconsideration from his oldtime admirers.

Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez warned that the release to the public of the secret document would affect adversely Recto and Laurel more than it would the President.

A staunch supporter of the Magsaysay administration, Senator Rodriguez proposed a constitutional amendment for simultaneous national and provisional elections on all levels, from president down to councilors only every six years without re-election. According to the Philippine constitution, an amendment to the Constitution has to be ratified by a plebiscite.

Your obedient servant,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to ~~Acting~~ Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Chung Whan Cho.