

December 19, 1957

**Letter No. 70 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu summarizes a meeting with Yatsugi regarding the Korea-Japan negotiations, as well as his disagreements with Ambassador Kim.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

December 19, 1957

No. 70

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At 2 p.m. this afternoon, I met Yatsugi for two hours together with the ambassador. Before we left the office I told the ambassador pointblank that if he again refuse to meet the Japs with me I would have to report the facts to the government. He had no alternative.

The following is what Yatsugi said to us:

1. As a result of his frequent talks with Prime Minister Kishi, it was decided that the Japanese side will accept the Korean demands.

2. The Prime Minister has vested in Yatsugi the authority to conduct talks with the Korean side.

3. In the letter to be written to President Rhee, Kishi, as prime minister of Japan will accept the Korean proposal on property claims which could not be inserted in the agreements to be signed between the two sides.

Ambassador Kim suggested to Yatsugi that in addition to the property claims the Japanese side should also refer to the fishery issue to the effect that it will not violate our Line. I said to the ambassador we should not insist on it at this time as the Peace Line issue and its relevant matters will be discussed and settled at the formal conference. The ambassador, however, kept insisting that the memorandum to the President should also mention the fishery issue.

Yatsugi replied that he would have to consult Kishi on that matter.

The decision reached at this meeting is that (1) Amb. Kim and I will meet Kishi together with Yatsugi on the 24th (Tuesday) at which time Kishi will have his say regarding the contents of the letter to the President. On the 25th, we will meet Fujiyama. (The Japs do not keep Christmas a holiday) Yatsugi will inform us of the time later on. (2) The Japanese side will accept the Korean amendments on the detainee and art objects issue. Since the details of the draft memorandums on these matters are not familiar to Yatsugi, he requested that we provide him with copies of each of them. (3) Kishi's letter to the President will be left in the ambassador's keeping. In the meantime, the ambassador and I must arrange a date for the Japanese side to see President Rhee, preferably about the 15th of next January or the later part of that month. (4) No other person or organization must know of the arrangement. In the case of any leakage, Yatsugi said the whole thing will be completely off and he fears that many people may have to be sacrificed.

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I told Yatsugi very strongly for the benefit of Amb. Kim that Tanaka must have no part in what we are doing unless he apologizes to me for his recent behavior. I have to teach the Japs a lesson.

On our way home, Amb. Kim expressed his relief that Kishi is so willing, adding that the memo would be of better advantage to us than having our terms inserted in the agreement. Ambassador Kim is ignorant as to how we must carry on our work with the Japs yet insists on having his way. I am afraid that he is the most inappropriate man to tackle our problems at the formal conference. Today, he again asked that we keep the details of our meeting from our reports. I told him he should not even try to interfere with my reports and that he has only to report the truth.

If there are any instructions, I hope they will be issued to me before we meet Kishi on the 24th.

Haikeyin