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**December 13, 1957**

**Letter, Korean Mission in Japan to Syngman Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Report about a meeting with Yatsugi and Tanaka and conflict between the reporter and Ambassador Kim.

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As previously agreed to I went to meet Yatsugi and Tanaka at 8:00 o'clock last evening (12). The ambassador refused to attend. Yatsugi was on time but Tanaka failed to show up. Yatsugi tried every means to contact him but was unable to do so. At 9:30 however, Tanaka showed up.

No Jap had ever kept me waiting that long. It was with great difficulty that I kept back my temper. I told Tanaka in very strong terms that it was an unheard of thing that anyone should keep a person with whom he had an appointment waiting for an hour and half. Also, he could have called saying that he would be late.

Tanaka, in turn, became angry and said that he did not stay away because he wanted to and that it was on a matter which need not be kept from me. With this, he left the room. Yatsugi followed Tanaka and a few minutes returned to tell me that Tanaka had to meet Ambassador Kim at the latter's request. The ambassador kept him from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tanaka had some other business to attend<sup>to</sup> and therefore was late.

Yatsugi requested another meeting with me the next day. I did so. What he told me was this: Tanaka told Yatsugi that Amb. Kim called him yesterday afternoon requesting a meeting. Tanaka said that since we would all be meeting that evening it was not necessary. Amb. Kim's reply was that he would not be present there and asked for <sup>only</sup> 150 minutes. Tanaka agreed and they met at the Hasegawa restaurant. Kim, however,

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three hours.

What Amb. Kim said to Tanaka was this: There is absolutely no need for a memorandum from either Kishi or Fujiyama.

The only alternative for the Jap side is to accept his amended Miyake proposal which he submitted to Fujiyama as article 4 of the draft agreed minutes and that talk of submitting notes to the President by Kishi or Fujiyama is useless. He repeated that the only way to settle the problem is for the Japanese side to accept his proposal. If it is not acceptable, some alterations can be made. Ambassador Kim further stated that he could not be responsible for Minister Yiu's proposal and action as well as for the memorandum from Kishi to the President.

Kim requested Tanaka to keep the meeting and his statements strictly confidential.

Yatsugi could not understand why Kim went to Tanaka and made such irresponsible and regrettable statements when it was agreed the other day that we would settle the problem by sending a memorandum to President Rhee.

When I came to the office this morning, Kim wanted to know what I had discussed with Yatsugi last evening. I said that nothing much took place. Even then, he made no mention of his meeting with Tanaka.

With the situation such as exists now, I can only express my deep feelings of regret. I spared no efforts in making this headway

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but I find myself in an impossible and shameful position before the Japs. The Government must chose one single course which we can follow or we will not be able to raise our heads again. There are limitations to everything and I cannot do any more more when there is someone beside me who is bent on destroying everything that I succeeded with the Japs.

In order to confirm Yatsugi's story, I asked the ambassador's driver and he replied that Kim did meet Tanaka from 4 to 7 o'clock at that restaurant.

Kim refused to meet Tanaka and Yatsugi with me at 8 p.m. that evening, but called Tanaka and met him separately that afternoon.

I would like to suggest that someone from the home government come and investigate the situation here. I cannot do any more than what I have already done. I feel that the only way is to leave Kim to have his own way. If I am to prevent the Japs from shaming us or we shaming ourselves before them, I shall have to stop contacting the Japs for the time being.

I write this with mixed feelings of deep guilt, regret and shame.