

## **December 11, 1957**

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

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

Report about a meeting with Kitazawa Naokichi regarding Japan's political state and Indonesian reparation issue.

#### **Credits:**

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English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

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I met Kitazawa Naokichi on the evening of the 10th.

When I visited Yoshida at his Oiso villa, Kishi called on him on his way to Hakone to report on his Southeast Asian tour. Yoshida voiced many complaints to Kishi in that the Indonesian reparations agreement was not a success as Kishi may think so. Yoshida felt that Kishi had chosen a very bad time.

"In the past as well as at present the political situation in Indonesia is very unstable. Sukarno's popularity does not extend further than Java and in Sumatra the people are very much anti-Sukarno. Sukarno's policies are not pro-communist but frankly Red. The Soviet Union considers Indonesia ideal for her many purposes and presently has a very stronghold on it. In view of this and many other problems, it was very unwise for Japan to agree to pay such a big reparations without waiting for further developments. Yoshida told Kishi that with regard to the issue of the \$170 million open account balance, the latter should have consulted him when making the decision, for as the signer of the San Francisco peace treaty, he knew better than anyone that there would be no reparations in cash. And the \$170 million is as good as cash for the Indonesians got that much Japanese goods without paying. Some people may say that it was impossible for Japan to get that amount paid by Indonesia and that the money would be returned to Japan by way of investments. However, Yoshida insisted that \$170 million worth of goods went to Indonesia without payment and it is not a very

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wise or justifiable on the part of the government to make such an excuse. Yoshida stated that by paying such a big amount of reparations to Indonesia, Kishi may think trade with Indonesia would be greatly increased and that it would benefit Japan in carrying out her Southeast Asian development plan, but as he had said, it is not known whether or no Indonesia will turn communist. It is something that one cannot predict or guarantee. Yoshida also stated that the Soviet Union is behind the Indonesian action against the Netherlands.

"To all these, Kishi replied that he made his decision not on the <sup>only</sup> strength of his talks with Sukarno/but also with Hatta who is pro-West. Yoshida, however, was not convinced.

"Yoshida again voiced dissatisfaction with the amount of \$800 million saying that Burma and the Philippines will not remain quiet, because unlike in Burma and the Philippines, the Japanese army did not commit atrocities in Vietnam and Indonesia but merely conscripted civilians for labor and turned the rubber plantations into fields to supplement the food shortage. For the Japanese government to agree on the same amount as that given to Burma and the Philippines was not only unwise but unfair as well, he said.

"Yoshida told Kishi that some time ago an American friend of his lamented to him that the present political movements in Japan resemble that of 1940 when Matsuoka, the then foreign minister in the Konoye cabinet formed the Axis pact and began preparations to war on the U.S. The present situation in Japan is similar in that Japan is trying to get closer to the communist orbit.



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Yoshida stated he could not say that this would not take place and advised Kishi to be very strong and do away with Kono from the cabinet which some people say is a Kono cabinet instead of a Kishi cabinet. Kishi replied that although he is well aware of it, he is keeping Kono so as to prevent him from making further and bigger mischief outside the cabinet. Yoshida asked Kishi why he was not dissolving the Diet and make the party one strong solid body. Kishi's reply was that he is trying very hard and although he is anxious to do so, he is afraid of losing to the Socialists in view of the anti-prostitution bill scandal in which many L\*D party members are involved. He stated that the scandal and the failure of the U.S. satellite launching will have a vast effect on the Japanese people for the Socialists will propagandize that whereas the Russians succeeded the Americans failed. Kishi assured Yoshida that whatever the newspapers may report he is making preparations to dissolve the Diet whenever the time warranted it.

"Concerning the commotion raised by his reported purchase of precious gems while on his tour, Kishi stated that it was the fault of the AP and the men in the Consulate. When he went into the store, some cameramen wanted to take pictures, but the officials tried to prevent them. He admitted to buying some but not in that preposterous amount. He stated that he had been informed that the AP correspondent in Malaya has been dismissed.

"No mention was made of Korea-Japan problems."