

December 12, 1957

**Letter No. 68 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee about a meeting with Yatsugi and Ambassador Kim regarding Kishi's notes and Korea's proposal.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

December 12, 1957

No. 68

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At 10:00 a.m. this morning, Yatsugi called and requested a meeting with me together with the ambassador. When I conveyed this call to the ambassador he stated that he had a previous engagement and that I go alone and hear what Yatsugi had to say.

With regard to the ambassador's request that the memorandum from Kishi be given to him, Yatsugi stated that a meeting was held on that account and it was decided that if the note were to be given to the ambassador, it would have to be done by Foreign Minister Fujiyama, in which case, Vice Minister Ohno and Asian Affairs Bureau chief Itagaki will have to participate. And Ohno and Itagaki will never consent to the term "does not substantially impair Korean claims". The note from Fujiyama to the ambassador will be a very weak one which will not satisfy the Korean side. However, if Kishi addresses the note to the President, it will be done politically and the contents will be drawn up by Yatsugi and Tanaka to the effect that the Japanese side will accept the Korean proposal on Korean claims. For the Prime Minister to address such a note to the ambassador when there is a foreign minister is something that is not done, Yatsugi said.

Yatsugi added that Kishi is anxious to know whether our proposal is exactly what the Korean side wants and that it is what the President wants. That is why Kishi insists on having the note written to the President, he said. If this is agreed to, all our requests will be inserted in the note, he said.

When I repeatedly insisted that the note to be given to the ambassador must contain the same. Yatsugi stated it simply could not be done. He could not understand why we should object to having Kishi address the note to the President. Yatsugi asked for another meeting with the ambassador and Tanaka present at 8:00 p.m.

When I reported my meeting with Amb. Kim, he again complained that the Foreign Ministry is causing confusion by sending different instructions, one on Nov. 13 and another on Dec. 7. He suggested that the government should settle the problem on the basis of the June 13 draft agreement or the Nov. 13 instructions; that he could not trust the Japs as being serious and that he will report to the government that it is impossible to succeed with the recent instructions.

I am quite convinced that Kim is mad because he was not the one to be approached in the first place by the government, but he must know that for the sake of our country we must do what is best for us. He is absolutely sure that the Japs will never give us such a memo. He insisted that his amended Miyake proposal is the best one and even advised me to report that it is hopeless to get the Japs to give us the note.

-2-

I find myself in a very unpleasant situation with the ambassador in such wise especially at this time when the Japs are anxious to settle the problem even at the expense of giving us the secret memorandum.

A few minutes ago, the ambassador stated he would not go to the meeting with Tanaka and Yatsugi this evening but that I should insist that Kishi address the note to him. If the Japs absolutely refuse, I should make the Japs agree to accept the Foreign Ministry's instructions of Nov.13--that is--the addition of "all its" between "with" and "sincerity" with regard to our property claims, and in Fujiyama's note to the ambassador it should be stated that the Japanese side will accept the amended Miyake proposal he submitted to the Japanese Foreign Minister.

I told the Ambassador that I would not do anything other than comply with instructions issued by the government.

Hairajin