

December 12, 1957

**Letter No. 67 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 regarding the amended Miyake suggestion.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

December 12, 1957

No. 67

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

I met Yatsugi on the evening of the 9th. During his short meeting with Kishi that morning, the Prime Minister asked that Yatsugi come to Hakone to which he will go for a weekend rest.

I told Yatsugi that without my saying so, I was sure he knew what he should discuss with Kishi and that by latest the 20th of the month we must arrive at some conclusion as the ambassador and I may leave on a trip at the end of the year. (Actually we made no plans). Yatsugi agreed with me saying that the detainee issue must be settled by then. He was confident that he would meet with no great obstacle. During the course of our talk, Yatsugi mentioned that Tanaka would be free from 8:00 p.m. and suggested that we call him over. We did so. When Yatsugi told Tanaka to bring our situation up to Kishi, his reply was that he had already written to Kishi when the latter was in Manila. On his arrival, Kishi asked Tanaka if anything was progressing and when the Prime Minister was told the details, he did not make any statement except that something should be done before the year end.

It was decided that we would meet again on the 10th if time permitted. I have reported to Amb. Kim my meeting with the two men.

I met Yatsugi again at 4:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the 11th together with Ambassador Kim. Tanaka was supposed to join us but due to an urgent matter which came up was unable to attend. However, Yatsugi assured us that he received the same authority from Prime Minister Kishi and that Tanaka's absence would not make any difference.

Yatsugi: "While exchanging such a note with you as you request, the Korean side must withdraw all its previous proposals, such as the amended Miyake proposal and others and accept the original draft agreement on property claims as drawn up on June 13. As to the Korean amendments on other issues, they will be accepted by the Japanese side. By so doing, we could have the agreements signed by Dec. 20."

Amb. Kim: "I would like an explanation from the Japanese side why it refuses to accept the amended Miyake suggestion."

Yatsugi: "I am not an official of the government and therefore am not in a position to answer, but I can say this. When you met Deputy Prime Minister Ishii on Nov. 15 you told him that the Korean side was willing to settle the property claims issue on terms very close to those that were drawn up last June. Later, you made another proposal and caused this confusion. As you know well, Minister Yiu and I together with Tanaka exchanged notes that we would agree to such and such that evening without knowing that you had gone to Ishii in the morning."

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Tanaka and Ohno had a very big argument that day. If you want to go over that again, I see no reason why I should continue talking with you."

A very unpleasant atmosphere prevailed for a while.

Yatsugi: "If we reach agreement on this we could go over to Kishi and see him. One thing I would like to say, however, is that we would like to address the note to President Rhee and if possible have someone from the Japanese side deliver it personally to the President. In exchanging a secret memorandum, it has been the practice to send the prime minister's special representative to deliver it personally to the head of the state."

(Yatsugi did not say it so specifically, but it is clear that Kishi and Yatsugi have no confidence in our Mission. They want to be convinced that our proposal is the last and final one.)

Kim/Yiu: "Prime Minister Kishi can exchange the note with Amb. Kim instead of going through all that."

Yatsugi: "It is not for me to decide, however, I shall reserve the answer, and it will not be at our next meeting."

"The only people who will be in on this secret undertaking will be Fujiyama, Ishii, Tanaka, besides the prime minister and me. No other person will know of this and the Korean side must keep it as secret as possible. If we fail to keep it, it will be detrimental to both sides.

We told Yatsugi that we would keep it confidential.

The meeting lasted for two hours.

On our way home, Ambassador Kim suggested that we keep out the details from our reports except to state that we met the Japanese side and acted according to instructions and that negotiations are under way. He wanted our reports to be rather vague. He gave me the impression that he is not very eager to carry out the recent instructions but to push through the amended Miyake proposal. I do not know the reason. I also know that he would like us to accept the draft agreements drawn up last June so as to gain back his prestige.

I told the ambassador that for the past ten years and more I have been sending reports to the President and during the 7 years that I have been in Japan, I have not stopped doing so. My reports contain details of my official and personal contacts with the Japs, what they do and say and leave the decision to His Excellency. Therefore he should not try to touch or interfere with them.

I know the ambassador made this suggestion because of the telephone calls from Mr. Park and Vice Minister Kim that the contents of our reports were not quite the same.

I am determined to have the Japs agree to our proposal by Dec. 20.

Yatsugi