

**November 21, 1957**

**Letter No. 62 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 on conversation with Ambassador MacArthur regarding the talk between Korea and Japan.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

November 21, 1957

No. 62

TO : His Excellency  
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

Ambassador MacArthur called on us at 5:00 p.m. today. Earlier, the Embassy contacted this office to state that the ambassador would call on both the ambassador and the Minister. Since the subject to be discussed was of a confidential nature, only Ambassador<sup>Kim</sup> and I were present.

Ambassador MacArthur stated that when Amb. Kim visited him the other day, the latter told him that the Korean side is sincerely anxious to settle the problems with Japan and solicited his help with the Japanese side. MacArthur said he was pleased with what Amb. Kim said and immediately contacted Kishi who stated that the Korean side was applying very strong terms in regard to the U.S. Statement. To this, MacArthur said he replied that it was understandable, but that when he met Amb. Kim the latter showed favorable signs that the Korean side was sincerely anxious to settle the problems.

MacArthur: "I was very pleased with what the Ambassador said and reported it to my government.

"This afternoon I was visited by a Japanese official of cabinet ministerial rank who told me that Amb. Kim and Minister Yiu met Foreign Minister Fujiyama yesterday to discuss Korea-Japan problems but that there was no change in the Korean attitude with respect to the U.S. Statement. Today, I also received a call from Amb. Dowling who requested that I meet the both of you and find out how matters stood as there seem to be no progress."

I know that Amb. Kim will have his own report of this meeting with Amb. MacArthur. I shall therefore record only the talks exchanged with the American ambassador on my part, with Amb. Kim interpreting.

MacArthur: "The Japanese official informed me that confidential talks were progressing between Minister Yiu and Yatsugi and Tanaka. He complained, however, that although Tanaka is deputy chief cabinet secretary, the Korean side should deal through the right channel."

Yiu: "Tanaka is deputy chief cabinet secretary and holds one of the most responsible positions in the whole cabinet. Also, Tanaka has special orders from Kishi to conduct talks with me and the notes

-2-

that were exchanged between us were made in accordance with Kishi's instructions. (I showed the signed note to MacArthur)

MacArthur: "I see. Tanaka and Yatsugi are influential and prominent people and I would advise that you keep confidential the note exchanged because if known it will make their position very difficult. I feel that you can make good use of it later on.

"The Japanese official told me that in regard to the U.S. Memorandum, Kishi expressed his determination that the Japanese side will not go any further than a certain line. But it seems Kishi said different things to different people."

Yiu: "I do not have to repeat that Amb. MacArthur and Amb. Dowling are very good friends of Korea. Because of what General MacArthur did for Korea, our feelings toward you are different from what we had toward your predecessors. We also know that Amb. Dowling is trying very hard to help us. Frankly speaking, however, you or Amb. Dowling will not remain indefinitely in your respective positions and since you move subject to the pleasure of your government, the situation might change from bad to worse, and we will be placed in a very disadvantageous position if we do not act with caution. Because of our bitter experience with the Japanese for nearly 40 years, we are endeavoring to conduct matters so as not to leave any vacuum for future disputes. You must understand and help us to achieve it."

MacArthur: "I understand perfectly. One thing I would like to say, however, apart from my position as ambassador to Japan, is that it is impossible to ignore or nullify the U.S. Statement, for this affects the prestige of the U.S. government. It is our view that the Korean proposal contradicts the substantiality of the Statement and even if we are anxious to help you it will be very difficult for us to do so. The Korean side may use any term but it must be which does not contradict the substantiality of the U.S. Statement. If you do this, I will support you wholeheartedly."

Yiu: "There is nothing in the proposal which we submitted to Kishi and to which he agreed that contradicts the substantiality of the U.S. Statement."

MacArthur: "Yes, there is. Amb. Dowling will arrive in Tokyo on the 25th on his way to the U.S. If possible, it is hoped that you will come to agreement with the Japanese side before the 25th. It will be so much better for Dowling to explain the Korean position in person than in writing and this would be more helpful to Korea. Dowling will have something with which to convince the U.S. government. I want you to trust me."

Yiu: "We are very grateful to you and we will certainly give deep thought to what you have told us. One thing you must realize is that Koreans know very well the psychological sentiment of the Japanese people, and if we make one mistake we will be committing a grievous sin against our people. The ambassador must understand this."

MacArthur: "I do.

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I have been very much excited these last few days and I find it difficult to concentrate on details. Since the ambassador will make a thorough report of the meeting I shall leave the details for future report until I calm down a little.

*Yiu Kuyin*

52