

October 17, 1955

**Letter, President Syngman Rhee to Yong Shik Kim
[Kim Yong-shik] of the Korean Mission in Japan**

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Summary:

Request of ROK to Japan regarding arrestments of Korean detainees

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To Minister Yong Shik Kim

From the President

Thank you for your letter of 12 October.

With regard to the Korean detainees, we have already agreed to accept those Koreans who went illegally to Japan after 1945. We will keep our promise to that extent. But Japan returned together with Koreans of this category, many Koreans who entered Japan before 1945 and Japan agreed to keep them there until we settled their legal status. But those who illegally entered Japan during the war we will accept if they send them back.

They must agree not to illegally arrest any Korean citizen. If a man commits a crime, the Japanese Government should try and legally punish him according to Japanese law, so long as the law is justly applied. But this story that the Korean people are homeless, and their records of previous criminal convictions, do not justify their arrest in violation of human rights by Japan or any other government.

The fishermen have to suffer because the Japanese government deliberately encouraged the Japanese fishermen to violate our line -- which they refuse to recognize -- otherwise they will not keep away from us. The chances are it will lead to some conflict between the two countries if they continue to violate the line.

Of course, if the Japanese will promise to release all the detainees who are held without any legal justification, then this Government will release those Japanese fishermen who violate the fishery line and these who have served their terms will be released. Japan must first release the Korean citizens that are detained in violation of human rights and international law.

We will welcome the Swedish Minister to discuss the establishment of the medical center in Seoul. We will be glad to offer him every cooperation. I am pleased to note that you took the opportunity of discussing with him the matter of the withdrawal of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

(Dictated by President Rhee before departure Chinhae)

① 24