

October 19, 1955

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

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Summary:

Report on merger of Japanese Socialist parties

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, October 19, 1955

Excellency:

During the past week the Japanese political world developed a new situation; namely, long-delayed merger of the left- and right-wing Socialist Parties finally materialized. Thus, the new Japan Socialist Party has become the second largest party in the Lower House with a total of 155 seats as against the Democratic Party's 185 and the Liberals' 117.

A perusal of the platform of the Japan Socialist Party indicates that the new party will follow the line of neutralism, keeping contact with both the East and West. As there have been frequent contacts with Soviet Russia and Red China heretofore, it has now become necessary for the Socialists to obtain US understanding. For this purpose the Socialist Party decided, at its recent meeting of executive members, to send its Diet Policy Committee Chairman Katsumata to the United States for a series of meetings with US Government and other leaders, including the Democratic presidential candidate, Mr. Adlai Stevenson.

As for the general popularity of the Socialists it is very difficult for them to gain the political reins in Japan. It is true, especially from Japan's social structure and tradition. Nevertheless the present strength of 155 Diet seats must be watched with concern. In the event the Socialist Party takes over government, though there is little chance in the foreseeable future, it will no doubt place emphasis on neutralistic policies. At any rate, the move of the Socialists in future must be carefully watched.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,



His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee