

November 7, 1957

**Letter No. 59 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 a meeting with Director Itagaki on Korea-Japan problems.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA



KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

November 7, 1957

No. 59

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

SUBJECT : Meeting with Director Itagaki
on Korea-Japan Problems

As requested by Itagaki, director of the Asian Affairs Bureau this morning, I went to see him at the Foreign Ministry at 3:00 p.m.

Itagaki was anxious to know whether I had brought with me any new ideas from the government. I reminded him that I went to Korea for personal reasons although I did discuss our problems with the officials of our Foreign Office. The fundamental policy of our government has not changed, I said, and our position still stands the same. Itagaki stated that frankly speaking, the Japanese side knows the Korean side will not accept the draft agreements drawn up on June 13. On the other hand, the Japanese side is not in a position to accept the Korean amendment proposals. The alternative, therefore, is to draw up a solution which would be acceptable to both sides. Without this, he said, prospect of a settlement is dim and the tragic situation existing between the two countries will continue.

I pointed out to Itagaki that the Japanese attitude toward the U.S. memorandum only deepens the suspicion on the part of the Koreans as to why Japan is insisting on it. Itagaki's reply was that the Japanese side fears the Korean side would request an exorbitant amount of claims. The Korean side, on the other hand, has its own fears and suspicions, he said. Suspicions on both sides are preventing the problems from being settled, he added.

When I further pointed out that the American side does not interpret its statement on the property claims the way Japan does, Itagaki's answer was that since the talks had progressed this far, a new formula would have to be studied. I then asked him to present his formula which would be satisfactory to us. He replied that since all his previous proposals had been rejected by us, the Korean side should do so instead.

Since it was the first meeting after my return to Tokyo, Itagaki suggested that we go into full discussions next week. He then informed me that our meeting which Yatsugi had suggested for the 12th would have to be changed to the evening of the 9th as the Diet session to adjourn on the 12th would take up the whole night. I told him we had no objection to holding the meeting that evening.

As Itagaki has stated, the Japs know well that we will not accept the original draft agreements. I am confident that we may be able to get things done our way. At any rate, the Japanese renunciation of their property claims must be made clear and definite in writing. Should

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the formal talks break down after we have concluded the preliminary talks we would have something in writing to show that the Japs have renounced their claim to property in Korea.

Itagaki expressed his anxiety to conclude the preliminary talks by the end of the year and bring the release of the detainees to fruition.

He remarked on the President's statement that Japanese will not be allowed in Korea for 30 to 50 years and the capture of 3 Japanese vessels which came right on the heels of my statement that we will capture them if Japan continues to take her present attitude, saying that these events had added greatly to aggravate the Japanese public. I replied that the continued lack of Japanese sincerity brought about such statements and that we will continue to seize Japanese vessels violating our Line.

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