

September 26, 1957

**Letter No. 56 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 Matsumoto Takiso and Fujita regarding the latest Japanese proposal and Korean amendment proposal.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

September 26, 1957

No. 56

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

I had lunch with Matsumoto Takiso (Minister of State) together with Fujita this afternoon. Matsumoto urged that our government accept the new Japanese proposal. I replied that it was not acceptable, however, as I had told Itagaki on the 24th of my personal suggestion, if Japan deletes the U.S. memorandum from the joint communique and the note verbale I had a mind to submit the latest Japanese proposal to our government.

Matsumoto stated that the latest Japanese proposal was drawn up after taking into consideration the Korean amendment proposal and that it was the most the Japanese side could do.

I pointed out to Matsumoto that article 4b of the San Francisco peace treaty binds 4a as the first part of (a) states "Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article, etc, etc..." Since Japan has already recognized the validity of disposition of property of Japan, etc. in (b), the term "subject of special arrangements" referred to in paragraph a deals only with Korean property claims. As far as I know, many intelligent Japanese interpreted this quite fairly, I said.

Matsumoto's reply was that interpretation could be made in many ways and the drafters of the peace treaty having clarified it, remarked ^{on} the uselessness of discussing it at this time.

During his meeting with Amb. MacArthur a few days ago, the ambassador remarked that the impression he received on his visit to Korea was that President Rhee was very anxious to settle the problems with Japan and that he had no intention of making their settlement any more difficult that it already was. Hearing this, Matsumoto said he was most relieved and assured. He then hastened to add that we settle the problems along the lines as presented by the Japanese side, stating that deletion of the U.S. memorandum from the note verbale and the joint communique and the agreed minutes would not be acceptable. Matsumoto will take it up with Kishi at his next meeting with the prime minister, but he was not sure Kishi would be able to do anything.

I told Matsumoto that with so many Koreans detained in the Omura camp all these years it was impossible to drag the talks any longer. Since I would be leaving for Korea next month we must reach some results by that time, I said, or else I would have to report to the government that it was hopeless to think of settling our problems with Japan at this time. I stated that whatever our government action would be I would wash my hands off the whole affair for I know they were not sincere and suspect them of making me play into their hands.

-2-

Matsumoto's reply was that we should not hurry so and that he would do his part. However, he dismissed any hope of the amendment proposal being accepted by the Japanese side.

I repeated that since there was no use of dragging on any further, I would have to report to the government the hopelessness of the situation and soon issue a statement of how matters stood between us. Matsumoto argued that the time was not ripe for such a thing.

I have no idea what the outcome would be since it is Japs with whom we are dealing. But I shall spare no efforts to get the Japs to accept our terms.

Taikayin