

October 26, 1955

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

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Summary:

Report on the reasons for Ambassador Lacy's resignation

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, October 26, 1955

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Excellency:

At a reception commemorating the UN Day given by the local British Commonwealth Forces commander on Oct. 24 the Netherland Ambassador here, Mr. Jonkheer O. Reuchlin, told me in confidence that he had met Amb. Lacy a few days before in Tokyo and got the impression that his resignation was not due to ill health.

According to Mr. Reuchlin they knew each other since they met in Washington in connection with the Indonesian issue. He also said as his personal view that Lacy's resignation was generated by Washington which used his ill health as an excuse. I told him flatly that all we knew was that he resigned because of ill health.

I asked Mr. Reuchlin what Lacy said about his resignation. He told me that he got the impression that Lacy's resignation was not merely due to ill health and that as to the real reason he was not at liberty to say. He also said that he understood Counselor Strom would act in Lacy's place as charge d'affaires ad interim. I repeated that all we knew was that he resigned due to ill health, however, the Netherland Ambassador implied that there was difference of views between Washington and Seoul.

Lacy spent several days in Tokyo after arriving from Seoul. I was neither informed of his arrival here nor was I paid a call by him.

Yesterday, Mr. Keyes Beech, Correspondent for the Chicago Daily News, called on me. He said that it was his courtesy call before leaving for his new station in Hongkong on Sunday (Oct. 30). He also asked me about Lacy's resignation. I told him that he had resigned because of

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His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee

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ill health. Mr. Beech told me that there was speculation among the correspondents' group here that Lacy would not be replaced for some time, leaving Mr. Strom as charge d'affaires ad interim. He tried hard to get from me the story behind Lacy's resignation. However, I refused to say anything more than his ill health as the reason for his resignation.

I emphasized that the United States and Korea are close allies each other and, therefore, mere replacement of one ambassador would in no way affect their relations. According to Mr. Beech Lacy will be assigned to the State Department with ambassadorial rank.

Knowing that some time ago he wrote an article on our economic condition which was derogatory to our country, I took that opportunity to brief him thoroughly on recent development of the Korea-Japan relations, including Japan's threats to neighboring countries and US tendency to encourage such attempt of Japan without realizing future course.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,

Francis Pickens