

**September 19, 1957**

**Letter No. 53 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the  
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Tai Ha Yiu briefs Syngman Rhee on a meeting with Yatsugi and Tanaka regarding Yatsugi's meeting with Kishi and the detainee problem.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

September 19, 1957

No. 53

TO : His Excellency  
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

I met Yatsugi and Tanaka this afternoon and discussed our problems for nearly an hour.

Yatsugi spoke of his meeting with Kishi last evening to discuss our afternoon talk but dismissed any hope that the Japanese side would accept our amendment proposals, stating that if Kishi's position were to be strengthened by his acceptance of them, nothing could be better, but the present situation being such, it would be disastrous to Kishi.

Tanaka added that for his sake as well as for the sake of the Prime Minister, he had been exerting all his efforts to settle the detainee problem (both men are from the same prefecture), but however anxious he was to help Kishi he was not in a position to do more. Since the Japanese side made such big concessions (the Japs insist they are concessions), the Korean side should not make additional demands but accept the Japanese proposal, however unsatisfactory, and open the formal talks at which time the Korean side could take whatever action it pleased depending on the Japanese attitude at the time.

Tanaka then went on to give a long explanation of Kishi's difficult position. I on my turn insisted there would be no solution without acceptance of our terms by the Japanese side.

I told the two men that since it would not do to drag our talks to any length of time they should give us an answer by latest the end of next week.

Tanaka will leave again for Yamaguchi on Saturday and return in a few days. I shall continue meeting Yatsugi.

During his meeting with the Prime Minister, the latter told Yatsugi that Takasaki Tatsunosuke, president of the Greater Japan Fishery Association together with six other representatives came to the residence of the Prime Minister and petitioned that since the two sides failed to come to agreement on the detainee problem, the Japanese side should release the Koreans detained at the Omura camp whether or not the Korean government returns the Japanese fishermen. Kishi, however, rejected this petition to the effect that mutual release will be made after the two sides come to agreement on the pending problems as unilateral release of the Koreans by Japan would further aggravate the situation.

I made light of Yatsugi's statement by saying that whatever action the Japanese government decides to take was its business. I know that Kishi will not do anything so rash as Takasaki's suggestion.