

September 4, 1957

**Letter No. 47 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs Syngman Rhee on a meeting with Yatsugi regarding Kishi's concern to settle the problems with Korea.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, September 4, 1957

No.47TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

Important

I met Yatsugi at the Imperial this afternoon. He told me of his meetings with Kishi and how anxious the prime minister was to settle the problems with Korea. According to Yatsugi, Kishi told him that he would personally like to accept everyone of the Korean demands but was not in a position to do so because of too much opposition. What the Japanese side is afraid of, Yatsugi said, is not the contents of the Korean proposal on the property claims but that Korea might present a tremendous amount of claims. Certain Koreans living in Japan keep telling their Japanese friends in the Liberal-Democratic party that Korea would request about 3 or 4 billion dollars. If this were not so, he said, the Japanese side will not be so reluctant to accept the Korean proposal on the U.S. Memorandum when talks have reached such a stage.

I told Yatsugi that the figures will present themselves during our formal discussions. The Korean side has not once mentioned figures and it is up to the Japanese side to do so, I said. I further told Yatsugi that the Japanese people must not lend their ears to what some undesirable Koreans say.

Pressed to name the person who said it, Yatsugi reluctantly gave me that of Chin Hang Moon, formerly a councillor in the Manchurian puppet government. (Please keep it confidential) This man keeps telling his Jap friends that the Korean claims amount would be an exorbitant one and that the Japanese side should not even try to tackle the problem during President Rhee's lifetime. Chin is presently in Seoul.

Before parting Yatsugi proposed that since the Foreign Ministry would not be able to settle the problems, he, Tanaka and I should meet frequently and discuss ways and means. He said that Kishi was desirous of this. I agreed to it, but made it clear to him that we would stand pat on our amendment proposals. He acknowledged it and at the same time expressed his hope that the problems could come to agreement before Fujiyama's departure for the U.S, but since that was impossible they should at least try to do so by the end of November or December by keeping in close touch with me.

With the Jap political scene to undergo a change with the year-end nearing, the Japs seem to be quite anxious although I shall have to keep on meeting them to find out what they really have in mind.

It is requested that I be informed of any moves by the American side together with instructions.