

August 8, 1957

**Letter No. 37 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 conversation with Kitazawa Naokichi regarding Japan's refusal to accept the Korean draft, due to opposition from the Finance Ministry and the party.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, August 8, 1957

No. 37TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

The following is gist of conversation exchanged with Kitazawa Naokichi at my meeting with him last evening.

Kitazawa: "I met Ohno at the Foreign Ministry this morning and learned the details of your meeting with Itagaki. Ohno is of the opinion that the talks have reached the final stage, with the exception of the U.S. memorandum issue. He said that Japan cannot accept the Korean draft on the matter due to opposition from the Finance Ministry and also from the party. Ohno told me they find it hard to understand why the Korean side insists on its new draft when the original one fully covered everything. However, he said he will study the idea of a counterproposal.

"It is my opinion that with matters progressed this far, the Korean side should try to bring them to the final goal. Open the formal conference. You can always air your dissatisfaction at that time. Think of me not as a Japanese but as your true friend when I say this."

Yiu: "There will be no change in our stand. Even if the government were to do so, it will not be allowed. Some quarters in our government and assembly even question why the government wants to go so far with the Japanese when they do not even respond. As you know, most of our government leaders are young and are therefore hard and determined."

Kitazawa: "I visited the Foreign Ministry to discuss the Soviet Government's proclamation of Peter the Great Bay as Soviet internal waters. Some Japanese quarters advocate taking the matter up to the UN as well as many other measures. However, it will not bring any adequate results. The Russians reason that their closure of the area was to conserve fisheries, but the real motive is not that. The Russians have strongly fortified the surrounding areas.

"There has been much talk of presenting the Korea-Japan problems to the International Red Cross meeting to be held in New Delhi, but that is also not quite the proper thing to do. Solution rests with the two countries.

"According to Ohno, Undersecretary of State Herter will visit Japan on his way home from attending the occasion of Malaya's independence. This was the information which the Foreign Office received from its Embassy in Washington.

"The U.S.-Japan Committee on Security Treaty has been set up. This committee is merely to study problems arising in relation to the security treaty, including consultation, whenever practicable, regarding the disposition and employment of U.S. forces in Japan. The committee has no authority to make decisions, only to consult. Frankly speaking, the security treaty could be taken as an occupation policy of the U.S. and all depends on the military buildup of Japan.



-2-

With regard to the introduction of modern weapons to Japan, I am quite familiar with it. This fiscal year, a 10-000 man outfit will be trained to man these weapons, such as rocket guns and guided missiles. These of course are not atomic weapons. With the shortage of foreign exchange, it was decided some time ago that these weapons will be purchased with Yen."

Yiu: "How do you think of the reported Diet dissolution in October?"

Kitazawa: "That is confidential to some extent. I can say that there are possibilities. I have been visiting my hometown very frequently of late although it is not to be taken as campaigning.

"With the Socialist Party in trouble over the involvement of some of its members with the bribery case of the Food Procurement Agency attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, the L-D party is trying to use that incident to crush the Socialists. Kishi feels that the socialists will lose the confidence of the people if such a case should be brought to the open. Also, with Kono continually in conflict with the government, Kishi is determined to bring about some changes. However, the Diet dissolution will all depend on the political situation in Japan.

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3
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"Kishi is about to make a visit to the countries in Southeast Asia which he has not visited on his previous tour. The cabinet is presently studying the merits and demerits of such a trip.

"With Japan headed for troubles in her Southeast Asian economic penetration plan, she is concentrating her efforts to the Middle East, and if she succeeds, Japan will be better benefitted than in her Southeast Asian venture. However, that is still a matter of the future.

"With Japan's fishery problem greatly handicapped from the restrictions imposed by Soviet Russia and the Republic of Korea, I feel that if the situation continues for the next four or five years, fishery resources in waters surrounding Japan would be exhausted.

"Even in Japan's relations with the U.S., all is not smooth sailing. Some districts in the U.S. are determined to boycott Japanese goods although the U.S. government is trying to help Japan. For instance, with the loan from the Export-Import Bank involving cotton and grain, etc. American business circles have placed before their Congress and Government requests that American vessels be used in transporting them--that is-- two-thirds. We have enough vessels of our own to do the work. This matter is presently being discussed by our government authorities, but no tentative decision has been made."