

August 7, 1957

**Letter No. 36 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 on the Korean amendment proposal regarding the US memorandum.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, August 7, 1957

No. 36

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

I had dinner with Yatsugi in the evening of August 6.

According to Yatsugi, he met Ishii and learned from him the result of my meeting with Itagaki on the 5th. Ishii told Yatsugi that the Korean amendment proposals would be accepted by the Japanese side with the exception of the one relating to the U.S. memorandum. Since that particular one could not be accepted by Japan, Yatsugi asked that the Korean side take the matter into deeper consideration, for a delay would only result disastrously and might cause both sides to regret, particularly the Korean side, pointing out that the Japanese side was trying to come to terms with Korea. Yatsugi's advice was that we arrive at an early conclusion for if we were to delay any more there was every possibility the Japanese sentiments would undergo a change and the situation might take an unfavorable turn. If there was anything that did not satisfy the Korean side at the preliminary talks, it should be discussed at the formal conference, he said, adding that his group was always near to help us. If discussion at the formal talks still fail to satisfy the Koreans, they could break up the conference. The Korean side can take any action it pleases to take, he said. He further stated that he was not asking us to do this because of his anxiety to get the Japanese fishermen released from Korea; that he was not anxious for short-lived settlement, for if the formal talks fail to settle any of the problems, the Koreans would again start seizing Japanese vessels, he said.

I reminded Yatsugi that the Korean side displayed every sincerity of its desire to settle the problems, and because of our friendship with such people like him and Ishii, we had even narrowed our demands, but that we could not recommend to our government for any more chippings.

According to Yatsugi, a secret talk is now being conducted by the Foreign Ministry with the finance authorities on the Korean amendment proposal regarding the U.S. memorandum. He could not tell what the outcome of the talk would be, but expressed the hope the Korean side would take many things into consideration, in addition to the concessions it made.

I strongly insisted that our stand on the matter was unalterable.

As Yatsugi said it, Foreign Minister Fujiyama called him asking to see him the next day. Yatsugi said he will exchange views with the foreign minister and also report our meeting. He then advised that I meet Kishi and Fujiyama after my talk with Itagaki at the week's end.

Yatsugi will accompany Kishi on the latter's Southeast Asian tour in the fall. However, with many complicated problems presently confronting the Jap government, the Southeast Asian tour would not take so much prominence. According to Yatsugi, one of the countries in Southeast Asia which still has vivid memories of suffering from the Japanese, and further abetted by overseas Chinese, is Malay.

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The U.S. government plan to use Yen funds spent by Japan for modern U.S. weapons for procurement in Japan of weapons to be supplied to Southeast Asian nations was the subject of heated discussion at the Japanese cabinet, and the unanimous opinion was that the only country which would be willing to accept such aid was Taiwan. Even the finance minister was quite opposed to the plan as was Ishii, Yatsugi said. Some advocated that the idea be abandoned rather than lose face at being refused by the countries of that area. According to Yatsugi, the Japanese feel that the U.S. move was a measure to economize on its foreign aid and also to develop the defense production of Japan. Although this is not a decisive step, adoption of such a plan would mean an additional 50 billion in the defense budget which would become the cause for inflation. Considering this and that, there is very little possibility the plan can materialize, he said.

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What is most regrettable, Yatsugi said, is that Kishi's Southeast Asia development plan fails it will have a tremendous ill-effect on his political career. And with more Socialist attacks forthcoming, he will have a very hard time, he said.

Chang Chun who will visit Japan on September 19 as a personal envoy of Generalissimo Chiang will remain as a state guest of the Japanese government for three days.

Handwritten notes:
Japan's...
influence...
may...
Mekong...