

August 6, 1957

**Letter No. 35 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 the Japan's political situation, regarding Red China-Japan relations.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, August 6, 1957

No. 35

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

The following is a picture of the Japanese political situation as related to me by Sudo Shimbachi, Dietman and member of the Policy Drafting Committee of the Liberal-Democratic Party:

"A Diet dissolution at the end of October or November is most likely due to intra-party and intra-government differences over foreign policies. After Kishi's return from the U.S., Red China has repeatedly accused the Japanese government of hostile attitudes. The Kono group has expressed dissatisfaction with Kishi's policies and there are open clashes at cabinet meetings.

"The Kono group is blaming the government for the present financial situation and at the same time holds Ikeda responsible for the lapse in the Red China trade.

"With all this bickering going on inside the government and party, Kishi realizes that the time has come when he must stop Kono and his group from going too far, although it was through their votes that he emerged with a loss of only 7 votes in the party presidential elections, in consideration of which he accepted Kono as a member of his government. And as the papers have reported, there are clashes among the Ishibashi and Kishi groups due to the choice of personnel for party and government. To do away with all this unpleasant frictions, Kishi is anxious to dissolve the Diet and display his full power.

"There are plans for a visit by Kishi to Southeast Asia in November, but domestic problems need attending to and he must first of all, clear and strengthen his own doorstep.

"Much has been said of Kishi's achievements in the U.S. but the credit goes to Ambassador MacArthur. It was he who made Kishi pledge that he would follow the U.S. in anti-communist policies. MacArthur achieved a big victory over Kishi.

"Red China is anxious to station a trade mission in Japan which would be semi-official in nature. If this is to be permitted by the Japanese government, it would have to be recognized as an official organ and as such we would have to extend certain privileges. To have it otherwise, the Japanese government stated it would fingerprint the members of the mission. Another impossible request of the Red Chinese is that they be able to hoist the communist flag at the quarters of the delegation. Japan's trade mission in Red China is purely a trade office. Acceptance of the communist demands would mean partial establishment of diplomatic relations.

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"With regard to the matter of fingerprinting, any foreign visitor whose stay in Japan will exceed more than two months has to undergo such a process. Since the Red Chinese trade delegation will remain in Japan more than two months, the members will have to be fingerprinted as required. Also, it will be impossible for the Japanese government to agree to the Red Chinese demand to hoist their flag.

"The lifting of the CHINCOM restrictions will not bring about an increase in trade between the two countries. The highest trade figure with Red China under the barter system was \$80 million. Our business circles are confident that the removal of certain items in the embargo list would result in an increase in the trade amount to \$100 million, but that is mere wishful thinking. The main items of trade between the two countries were crude petroleum and raw cotton from Red China and machinery and sundry goods from Japan. However, with Japan able to meet her raw cotton and heavy oil demands without importing from Red China, the latter country is trying to find markets for such goods in Southeast Asia. Also, Red China is not so anxious to purchase sundry goods from Japan and instead has asked for vessels, however, there is a limit in tonnage of vessels to be sold to Red China.

"The payment currency in Japan's trade with Red China being in pounds sterling, monetary transaction will have to be made in London. This will be disadvantageous to Japan in that Britain will naturally be acquainted with the goods Japan exports to Red China and will try to compete with Japan. The currency matter is also a big problem."