

August 5, 1957

**Letter No. 34 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

Citation:

"Letter No. 34 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", August 5, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-323-097, The Korean Diplomatic Mission in Japan, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123651>

Summary:

Yu briefs Syngman Rhee on the 14th preliminary Korea-Japan talks, regarding the amended Korean proposal on the US memorandum.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, August 5, 1957

No. 34

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

SUBJECT : Summary of 14th Preliminary Korea-Japan Talks

The 14th preliminary session (the third since its resumption on July 23) was held with Itagaki, director of the Asian Affairs Bureau at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, summary of which is as follows:

Itagaki: "I have to reiterate again that the amended Korean proposal on the U.S. Memorandum cannot be accepted by the Japanese side. I have carefully reviewed the many phases of the memorandum and find that it came into existence as a result of the Korean request to the U.S. Government for clarification in 1952 of Article 4b of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and which I clearly understood was received with satisfaction by the Korean side. What I find difficult to understand is why you now request fundamental changes when you have already expressed satisfaction with it. The Korean side must accept the sincerity of Kishi and Ishii and that of the officials concerned instead of harboring undue suspicions.

"With regard to the deportation problem. The term now at issue was inserted in the detainee memorandum in accordance with the pertinent law of Japan. The Japanese side conceded to the Korean request for insertion of the term "who have served out their sentences" with regard to the Japanese fishermen in Korea because the Korean side insisted that their pertinent laws necessitate it. The same is true of us and the deportation term applies to all aliens, Americans and British, not particularly to Koreans."

Yiu: "We will accept the withdrawal by Japan of her claim to 85% of whole Korean property in Korea. It was preposterous in the first place. However, the point in the U.S. Memorandum which is related to Korea's claims is rather ambiguous and we want to leave no room for future argument. Frankly speaking, if the country we are dealing with is not Japan and there were no bitter experiences between us, we would give you our trust and accept anything without question. However, the case being quite the contrary, it is impossible for Korea to accept anything from Japan, unconditionally.

"You state that your deportation term applies to Americans and to the British as well. But has Japan ever brought over forcibly to Japan any Americans or British for labor or for other purposes of war? Most of the Koreans in Japan were brought to Japan by force to contribute to Japan's war purposes. Now that Japan finds no further need for them she is anxious to deport them under pretexts of criminal offenses and so on."

-2-

Itagaki: "I am in full understanding of the Korean position and we will accept the Korean amendment proposal on the deportation issue. However, the Korean side must withdraw its amendment proposal on the U.S. Memorandum."

Yiu: "There will be no change in our proposal on the U.S. Memorandum."

Itagaki: "Will the Korean side propose further amendments to the property claims memorandum?"

Yiu: "I do not believe there will be further amendments."

"I would like to suggest at this time that the Japanese side present to us a counterproposal on the issue based on our amendment proposal."

Itagaki: "The Japanese proposal is the same as the one originally agreed to between Ambassador Kim and Vice Minister Ohno, Nakagawa, the then Asian Affairs Bureau chief and Miyake."

Yiu: "That is already a matter of the past. I see no point in referring to it."

Itagaki: "I shall refer your suggestion to Foreign Minister Fujiyama and Vice Minister Ohno."

Yiu: "It must be made with the understanding that the Korean amendment proposal on the property claims issue is unalterable."

There was no answer to this. However, Itagaki stated that in order to bring the issues to agreement, he would present such a proposal.

Itagaki: "I understand the Peace Line issue will be discussed and settled at the overall talks. Nevertheless, I would like to have your opinion whether you think there is any hope of it being settled."

Yiu: "I am unable to say anything at this time. Our principles are well known to Prime Minister Kishi and Mr. Ishii."

Itagaki: "It would not be going too far to say that we have agreed on the other problems except for the issue of the U.S. Memorandum."

"Instead of discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the U.S. Memorandum, how about the Korean side presenting the amount of its property claims toward Japan?"

Yiu: "Such requests have been made to me several times, but I would like to repeat here that the Japanese side is more familiar with our claims than the Koreans themselves."

Itagaki: "That is not so. As it was in the case of the Philippine reparations and now with the Indonesian problem, it was the recipient countries which have presented the amount of their claims. I am unable to understand why the Korean side refuses to do this."

Yiu: "We have not yet come to the stage of discussing the amount of reparations. What we are demanding of Japan at present is that it

Handwritten: Note

Handwritten: It is wrong!!

-3-

compensate Korea for its 40 years of occupation, the details of which are familiar to you."

Itagaki: "We would save considerable time if instead of arguing on the U.S. Memorandum, the Korean side would present their claims amount. However, since your attitude is such, we will have to continue our discussion on the issue."

Yiu: "I want you to relay to your Prime Minister and Foreign Minister that the Korean side brought the talks to this extent from the belief that the present Japanese government is different from the former ones in many ways and that the prime minister was genuinely sincere in his wish to come to terms with Korea."

There was no answer to this.

The conclusion reached at this meeting was that the Japanese side would accept our amendment proposal on the deportation issue, and the problem still pending is that of the property claims. I am unaware about the outcome of our talks on the matter but shall spare no efforts to bring them to a satisfactory end.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place some time before the end of this week.

Before leaving the office for my meeting with Itagaki, I had an understanding with Ambassador Kim and our delegates to the preliminary talks that we would request the Japanese side to present a counter proposal on the U.S. Memorandum based on our amendment proposal.