

November 3, 1955
**Political Report, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim
Yong-shik] to the Office of the President**

Citation:

"Political Report, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim Yong-shik] to the Office of the President", November 3, 1955, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-308-077, 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/123660>

Summary:

Report on followings: Conservative merger, Repatriation of Japanese in DPRK, US Naval aircraft repair program

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, November 3, 1955

TO : Office of the President
FROM : Minister Yong Shik Kim
SUBJECT : Political Report

The items in this week's Political Report are as follows:

- I. ISSUE ON CONSERVATIVE MERGER.
- II. ISSUE ON REPATRIATION OF JAP NATIONALS IN NORTH KOREA.
- III. U.S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT REPAIR PROGRAM.

I. ISSUE ON CONSERVATIVE MERGER.

With a view to countering the unified political force of Socialist members of the Diet, the two major conservative parties-Democrats and Liberals-also agreed in principle with each other on the conservative merger at an earliest possible date. The two parties agreed to form the New Party Preparatory Council, a joint body entrusted with the task of paving the way for the Democratic-Liberal merger. The so-called New Party Preparatory Council was composed of 70 Diet members of the two parties-35 from each party. Besides the ordinary members of the Council, there are four managing sponsors of the Council. The four men are Democratic Executive Board Chairman, Secretary General and their respective Liberal counterparts.

The New Party Preparatory Council is supposed to be in charge of adjusting the basic policies of the two parties and solving the question of how and whom to choose as the head of the united conservative party now under formation. And arguments are centered mainly upon the question of how to choose the new party president.

Democratic representatives insist that Hatoyama be given the post through "consultations" between the two parties concerned, while the Liberals vigorously maintain the view that the new party president must be chosen through an "open election" by Diet members of both parties.

Because of the issue on presidency of the New Party, several meetings of the Preparatory Council were fruitless and finally, the Council decided to have the four managing sponsors iron out the differences of views between the two parties.

The four-man group, at first, decided to reach a certain conclusion on the presidency issue by around November 3, 1955, in anticipation that the ceremony of the conservative merger shall be held on November 10. But, on November 2, the four men decided to postpone the date of the projected formal merger of the two parties from November 10 to 15, in view of the persistent disagreement on how to choose the head of the unified party.

In fact, the Democrats command only a razor-thin majority over the

Liberals

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Liberals in the combined (Upper and Lower Houses) parliamentary strength-- 209 against 207. But since it is also true that among Democrats there are some who are in favour of the Liberal President Ogata as the head of the New Party, leaders of the Democratic Party are afraid of the principle of an "open election" proposed by the Liberals. On the other hand, the Liberals believe that if an open election is held for choosing the New Party President, the Liberals might have a chance to win, for at least some pro-Liberal Democrats may vote for Ogata as the President of the New Party.

Harassed by the firm stand taken by the Liberals, Democratic strategists recently began to study the possibility that the presidency may be subjected to a vote in accordance with the Liberal proposal on the condition that Hatoyama be elected as the head of the new party in the long run. On the other hand, the Liberals still maintain that the open election should be held unconditionally. Indications are that the conservative merger negotiations will reach a final stage in a few days to come. But the conservative merger will be made possible in some way or another.

II. ISSUE ON REPATRIATION OF JAP NATIONALS IN NORTH KOREA.

With regard to the question of repatriation to Japan of Jap nationals in North Korea, there exists the following background:

One of the most important features on this matter is that the repatriation question has been closely connected with the Communist peace offensives to Japan. Red China allowed Jap nationals in China Mainland to be repatriated to Japan and Japan allowed Chinese Communists in Japan to return to Red China. The negotiations on repatriation to Japan of Japs in China Mainland were conducted between the Japan Red Cross and the Red Cross of Red China. Encouraged by the Red Chinese move toward granting permission for Japs in Red China to return to Japan, Japan Red Cross officials began to study the possibility of repatriation of Japanese nationals in North Korea.

In December, 1953, Mr. Shimazu, President of the Japan Red Cross made trips to European countries including Russia. When he visited the Russian Red Cross Headquarters in Moscow, he requested that the Russian Red Cross make necessary arrangements for enabling Japanese in North Korea to return to Japan. At that time, Russians answered to Shimazu that it would be better for him to directly get in touch with the North Korean Red Cross regarding repatriation of Japs in North Korea. Thus, the Japan Red Cross immediately sent the North Korean Red Cross a cable, requesting the latter to render good offices for repatriation of Japanese in North Korea.

Early in 1954, the North Korean Red Cross sent the Japan Red Cross a cable saying that the North Korean Red Cross was making efforts to materialize repatriation of Japanese nationals in North Korea. Besides the activities made by the Japan Red Cross, various groups of Japs including journalists, Socialist members of the Jap Diet, etc. visited Pyongyang via Peking and talked with Korean Communists over the matter of repatriation of Japanese nationals in North Korea. And the so-called Japan-Chosun Association (composed of Jap leftists and Korean Communists in Japan) played a considerably active role in respect to the matter of Japanese repatriation. It was at that time that Korean (Communist) members of the Japan-Chosun Association fixed their eyes upon the question of repatriation to North Korea of Korean Communists in Japan. They attempted at dealing with Japan in regard to the questions of the so-called repatriation of Japanese in North Korea and of Koreans (Communists) in Japan.

In July, 1955, Nam Il of the North Korean Puppet Regime, issued a statement to the effect that North Korea was ready to start negotiations with Japan regarding the overall issues including political, economic and cultural ones pending between Japan and North Korea. Nam Il also stated that Japan should

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send her representatives composed of members of the Japan Red Cross and the Japan-Chosun Association in order to discuss the question on repatriation to Japan of Japanese nationals in North Korea.

In regard to Nam Il's statement, Shigemitsu, at the Justice Committee meeting of the House of Representatives on June 18, 1955, testified that the Republic of Korea Government was recognized by a resolution at the United Nations and Japan should normalize relations with the Republic of Korea first of all, and that Japan has already given the Republic of Korea de facto recognition since there is the Republic of Korea representative stationed in Japan. He, thus, turned down Nam Il's overtures on political and economic matters.

And Japan, at present, is opposed to Nam Il's request that the Jap Repatriation Delegation be composed of representatives of both the Japan Red Cross and the Japan-Chosun Association.

Thus, views of Japan and North Korea on the composition of the Jap Repatriation Delegation are controversial particularly in regard to whether members of the so-called Japan-Chosun Association may be included in the Team.

Under the circumstances, the Japan Red Cross requested the International Committee of Red Cross in Geneva to persuade the North Korean Red Cross to "abide by the traditional spirit of International Red Cross"--to give up North Korea's insistence that members of the Japan-Chosun Association be included in the Repatriation Promotion Team to be dispatched to North Korea.

On October 27, 1955, Japan Red Cross received from the International Committee of Red Cross a cablegram as follows:

"The Committee requests that both Japan Red Cross and North Korea Red Cross settle the issue of repatriation of Japanese nationals in North Korea on the basis of the traditional spirit of Red Cross and believes that the two Red Cross Headquarters will not be at variance with this tradition....." Now, it seems that the International Red Cross in Geneva is in favor of Japan's argument that no representatives of the Japan-Chosun Association be included in the Team. However, on October 30, 1955, North Korea, through Pyungyang Radio, indirectly answered to the opinion of the International Red Cross in Geneva, reporting that "it is the consistent policy of the North Korean Red Cross that Japanese representatives composed of members of both Japan Red Cross and the Japan-Chosun Association should visit Pyungyang, thereby settling the question of repatriation to Japan of Japanese nationals residing in North Korea who wish to return to Japan."

Thus, the issue on whether members of the so-called Japan-Chosun Association may be allowed to visit Pyungyang together with those of the Japan Red Cross has not been settled yet. In short, North Korean Communists are attempting to make use of the issue of Japanese repatriation as a sort of political deal with Japan, while the Jap government is attempting to be immune from the accusation that Japan will enter into political deals with North Korea, in consideration of Japan's relations with the free nations including the Republic of Korea. It may be premature, however, to predict how long the Japan Red Cross can continue to reject the Korean Communists' request that members of the Japan-Chosun Association also be dispatched to Pyungyang. Families of those Japanese detained in North Korea are still giving pressure to the Japan Red Cross and the Jap Foreign Ministry, requesting an immediate repatriation of Japanese in North Korea. It should be carefully watched how this issue will be developed in future.

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III. U.S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT REPAIR PROGRAM.

The U.S. Naval authorities in Japan are trying to put into practice a naval overhaul and repair program by utilizing Jap industry. This program is administered by Commander Fleet Air Japan at Naval Air Station, Atsugi, Japan.

The major naval aircraft overhaul and repair is performed in the United States under the US Navy's immediate control. But Jap industry has increasingly engaged in this work in the past two and a half years. An example of the Jap industrial participation is the aircraft repair work done by the Tokyo Aircraft Instrument Company. To this plant, damaged and worn aircraft instruments of the US Navy are delivered for overhaul, while instruments which the Company has repaired are returned to the U.S. Navy Supply Depot at Yokosuka for redistribution to Naval air squadrons. Jap industry will no doubt benefit from these repair contracts.



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