

July 16, 1957

**Letter No. 28 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

Citation:

"Letter No. 28 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", July 16, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-323-119, 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/123670>

Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Kishi, Fujiyama, and Tanaka, regarding the new Korean proposal and Kishi's statement in the US about Japan's anti-communist policy and US-Japan relations.

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, July 16, 1957

No. 28

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At 3:00 o'clock this afternoon the ambassador and I called on the Japanese Prime Minister at his residence as scheduled and found him with the Foreign Minister and Tanaka, the deputy chief cabinet secretary.

After introducing us to the new foreign minister, Kishi stated that he had thoroughly studied the new Korean proposal and found nothing in it that was unreasonable in principle, however, his own opinion was not enough to arrive at a conclusion for he could not ignore the opinion of his party. One thing he would like to say, however, was that he had no intention of subjecting the Korean property claims to the U.S. memorandum in the amount or in the claim itself, for if he had such a thing in mind he would not have agreed to it in the first place. Since the new Korean proposal arose from suspicion and mistrust of the Japanese, he, as the prime minister of Japan, would like to affirm that the U.S. memorandum will not affect Korea's property claims in any way. What more, he asked, can the Korean side want from the prime minister of Japan than to have this promise made to them. If the Japanese side breaks its promise, then he would be glad to accept anything the Koreans might say. Adding that he would not indulge in the past behavior of Japan, he stated that there were many Japanese like him who want to be on friendly terms with Korea. He asked the ambassador to be instrumental in making the President and other leaders of the government understand his intentions.

Kishi referred to his statement he made in the U.S. making clear Japan's policy toward communism and voicing closer cooperation with the U.S. He stated that Japan must be influenced and directed by President Rhee, the foremost champion of freedom, and in order to bring this about cooperation was necessary.

Ambassador Kim stated that he was quite aware of the prime minister's position, however, as had been said before, the Japanese side must accept our problems if the problems were to be brought to settlement.

Turning to Fujiyama, Kishi asked what he thought of the ambassador's remark. Fujiyama replied that although he had not been long in the Foreign Office, from his talks with the administrative level he was convinced the Korean proposal would not be accepted. Also, as the prime minister had said, the opposition from inside the party would make it impossible for Kishi to accept it. Fujiyama ended by saying that he had read the draft memorandums and found Japan to have made vast concessions to Korea, all with genuine sincerity to settle the problems.



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Ambassador Kim reiterated that Japan must accept our proposal or there would be no solution to our problems.

Our meeting lasted 45 minutes. Kishi's point in calling for the meeting was to ask us to accept his oral promise and to take it in good faith. The Koreans might ask why it is impossible for the Prime Minister to make a written commitment, he said, but as he had already stated, the internal situation would not make it possible for him to do so.

The conclusion reached at this meeting was that preliminary talks would be resumed to discuss and agree on the pending issues.

Kishi then turned to Tanaka and told him to keep the press away from any talks between the two sides as contrary newspaper reports would tend to harm the presently existing relations between the two nations and that Tanaka should be careful in issuing public releases, citing as example, the recent statement attributed to him which he said he did not make.

I told Kishi that I was glad to hear the denial from him -- that in regard to our problems the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister should take into consideration what the ambassador had just said and come to a definite decision -- that the friendly atmosphere prevailing among us should not be disturbed and that the Japanese side accept our proposal -- that Japan made no concessions and whatever concession that were made were done by our side.

The meeting broke up with Kishi affirming his confidence in the ability of the new Foreign Minister to settle our problems.