

July 10, 1957

**Letter No. 23 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 Vice Foreign Minister Ohno regarding the preliminary Korea-Japan talks.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, July 10, 1957

No. 23TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At the request of Vice Foreign Minister Ohno I met him at the Kayukaikan, a guest club, instead of the Foreign Ministry this afternoon probably to escape the press.

As did Kitazawa before him, Ohno told me of his efforts that he made to bring our problems to a solution and of his regrets that the present cabinet had not been able to settle them. He stated that with Fujiyama Aiichiro, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce named the foreign minister, Kishi will have more time to carry out his duties of prime minister. However, the situation between Korea and Japan would be quite different as when Kishi also held the Foreign portfolio. According to Ohno, Kishi had been anxious to bring the preliminary Korea-Japan talks toward the resumption of the formal conference before his departure for the U.S. Ohno expressed his regrets in not being able to see the prime minister attain his purpose.

The main point of our talk was in regard to our amended draft proposal.

With regard to the term "under deportation orders" in the detainee memorandum, Ohno expressed his 'personal opinion' that if he had his way he would be content to settle the problem by amending the term with "for deportation". As to the U.S. memorandum, he insisted that the Japanese agreement to the property claims memo that Japan will agree to discuss and settle at the conference the Korean property claims with sincerity and that the U.S. memorandum does not mean reciprocal renunciation of claims could not be made any clearer or more specific than already agreed to, and for the Korean side to demand further changes and additions was certainly regrettable. He suggested that the two sides get together and discuss ways of settling the term "under deportation orders". He added that it was his hope to see the Prime Minister advise the new foreign minister when turning over the ministry, that the Korea-Japan problems had been agreed to such and such an extent, and that we should help him to do so.

I told Ohno that we would not be content other than with the complete deletion of the term "under deportation orders" and replace it with "Koreans now detained at the detention camps" due to the fact that these people came to Japan under very different circumstances than either the Chinese or any other aliens.

With regard to the U.S. memo, I told Ohno that if the Japanese side has any sincerity, she should not be reluctant to accept our new proposal; that the Japanese refusal makes the Korean side suspicious of the former's real intentions; that our reason for requesting the was to prevent any later squabble. I added that our ministries



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concerned were determined not to withdraw from their stand.

Ohno's reply was that if our position was such, possibility of an early solution was remote. He stated that he had asked to see me not because he had reached any decision with the other ministries but because he was sorry he could not see the Prime Minister achieve his aim.

I told Ohno that there would be no withdrawal on our part. I added that since it was impossible to leave the situation in a vacuum indefinitely, I would report to my government that the Japanese side refused to accept our terms. Ohno replied that since he was not sure what the new foreign minister would decide to do, and since he had not received any word from Kishi, I should wait a while. When I said that 10 days had already passed since Kishi's return from the U.S., he said that Kishi had been busy planning his cabinet in Hakone.

Before I left Ohno, I said to him that I had received word from our Marine Board that Japanese boats were violating our Peace Line in large numbers and that if they continue to do so by taking advantage of our good intention of refraining from seizing them, we would be forced to take drastic action. I made this up purposely to threaten him a little. To this Ohno replied that he had not heard of any mass violations, but since the Koreans had restrained from catching them this far, he hoped we would continue to do so, to which I said that the Japanese side must not try our patience too much.