

December 1, 1955
**Letter, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim Yong-shik] to
Office of the President**

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Summary:

Report on the discussion at the Agriculture-Fishery Committee of Japan

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

December 1, 1955

To: Office of the President
From: Minister Yong Shik Kim
Subject: What were discussed at the Agriculture-Fishery
Committee of the Japanese Diet on December 1, 1955.

The statement issued on November 17 by the Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff was taken up at the meeting of the Agriculture-Fishery Committee of the Japanese Diet on December 1. It is reported that discussions were centered upon what the Japanese Government's attitude will be.

The representative of the Japanese Maritime Safety Board took the view that Japanese patrol boats alone (not naval boats) would not be able to counter Korean naval vessels.

Foreign Ministry officials said that the Japanese Government was still awaiting an early reply from the Korean Government about the inquiry made on November 18 about the Korean JCS statement in question.

Japanese naval authorities said that it was premature to dispatch Japanese naval vessels under the present circumstances.

(Remarks: The Japanese Maritime Safety Board is not the navy, but a sort of water police headquarters.)



The following are the contents of answers made at the Committee meeting by representatives of various agencies concerned of the Japanese Government:

MARITIME SAFETY BOARD:

"The Korean statement in question cannot be recognized in the light of international law and practice. It is very hard to make a definite comment on the statement, on the assumption that Japanese fishing vessels might be fired upon or sunk. The Maritime Safety Board is held responsible for protecting Japanese fishing vessels in fishing operation, but it can hardly afford to protect them against the force which might be resorted to by the Korean Armed Forces."

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS:

"The Japanese Foreign Ministry has made an official inquiry about the statement in question and is still awaiting an answer from the Korean Mission in Japan. But since it is a diplomatic problem, we are going to negotiate with the Korean side on this issue with patience."

THE JAPANESE NAVAL AUTHORITIES:

"It is the duty of the Maritime Safety Board and not of the navy to protect the lives and property of Japanese



nationals on the seas. And it is impossible for the navy to dispatch naval vessels under the present circumstances. However, in case of emergency requiring a special action, the Defense Minister may issue an order of dispatch of naval vessels at the Prime Minister's approval therefor. In that case, since the purpose of dispatch of naval vessels is only to protect lives and property on the seas, their dispatch is not contradictory to Article 9 of the Constitution."

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