

June 25, 1957

**Letter No. 15 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Ohno, regarding the proposed amendments regarding the US memorandum and the detainee issue.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, June 25, 1957

No. 15

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At the luncheon meeting with Vice Foreign Minister Ohno, we discussed the proposed amendments that I brought with me from Seoul pertaining to the U.S. memorandum and the detainee issue. Ohno gave no hint that he had heard of our changes from Ishii and neither did we expect to tell him that unless the revisions and deletions are accepted by the Japanese side there would be no settlement to our problems. I told Ohno that our Foreign Ministry had studied the drafts which were sent to it and of the criticism it received for the ambiguity of the words used in the drafts. However, in order to bring our problems to settlement, our Foreign Ministry made maximum concessions the result of which were the proposed amendments now before him. If the Japanese side does not accept them, then it would mean a total breakup of what we had achieved so far. The ambassador made a similar statement to Ohno.

Feigning that he was hearing of our changes for the first time, Ohno stated that his Ministry had agreed to the draft memos drawn up while I was in Korea despite intense opposition from various sources. Now for the Korean side to request further revisions and deletions not only shows the Korean side is insincere but has no desire to settle the problems. The Japanese concession, he said, surpasses any so far made, and in fact, something Japan never did before.

Yiu: "You say that you made concessions, but what concessions have the Japanese side actually made."

Ohno: "If the Japanese side again agrees to retouching the drafts already agreed to by it, we will not get through the opposition from the administrative level. Some of them go so far as to say that if Japan makes further concessions, they would resign."

Yiu: "The very fact that you have such officials in your Ministry shows the Japanese people have not changed from their old ways."

Ohno: "I am not in a position to say whether or not we will accept your amendments. You can come to terms with them when you meet the Prime Minister and the acting Prime Minister. However, I do not think the two men will make any more concessions. It would be best for all concerned for the Korean side to agree to the original drafts. There is nothing for the Korean side to lose."



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You are still suspicious of us. We have accepted everyone of your demands. You make us doubt your sincerity."

Many words were exchanged after this but we gained nothing from our talk. As is usually the case, the Japs are always adamant at the outset. I do not know how far the Japs in the high level will be able to get through the opposition of the administrative officials.

When I called for another meeting, Ohno stated that he would not be able to do so this week as the days would be taken up with meetings with the Indian ambassador on the scheduled visit to Japan of Nehru in October, but that he would be free the next week.