

June 24, 1957

**Letter No. 13 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

Citation:

"Letter No. 13 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", June 24, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-323-144, 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/123726>

Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Kitazawa and Yatsugi regarding the amendments and deletions made by Koreans in regard to the draft memos on the detainee issue and the US memorandum.

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, June 24, 1957

No. 13TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

Immediately on arrival at Tokyo on the 22nd I contacted Kitazawa and Yatsugi and met them the next evening at 8:00 p.m. and explained to them in detail the amendments and deletions we had made in regard to our draft memos on the detainee issue and the U.S. memorandum. I made it clear to them that if the Japanese side accepts our amended drafts we would be willing to come to terms with them. Ishii had not yet returned from his Kyushu tour but was scheduled to arrive the next evening.

After listening carefully to me, Kitazawa stated that the Japanese Foreign Ministry as well as the other ministries concerned are troubled as to whether or not to agree to the new demands of the Korean side which they knew were forthcoming. He stated that although the final say rests on Ishii, the situation would not be an easy one, adding that although Ishii is the acting Prime Minister, it would be advisable to await Kishi's return from Washington.

Kitazawa then referred to the editorials in the Japanese papers after my return to Korea, that the Korean side was purposely using delaying tactics in order to sign the agreements with Ishii rather than with Kishi. This placed Ishii in a very difficult position, he said. He further regretted the attitude of the Foreign Ministry officials who stated that they had been cheated by the Korean side when the memorandum on the detainee issue failed to be signed before Kishi's departure for the U.S.

I told Kitazawa and Yatsugi that we will not retract from our stand, therefore, if the Japanese side has any sincerity to settle our problems, it should accept it. If not, they should give up the whole idea of coming to terms with us, that there was no further need for elaboration on my part concerning our amended proposal. The two men replied that since it was not something for them to decide, they would consult with Ishii when he returns from his trip.

Kitazawa: "If the Korean side takes this subject up immediately with the Foreign Ministry, it will again be publicized that your side had presented new conditions. This will be done not to criticize you but to put Ishii and Kishi in a very bad light. I therefore hope that you will hold talks with the Foreign Office after you have discussed them with Ishii and some agreement has been reached."

Yiu: "I have no objection to your proposal if it will bring our talk to a success.

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"During my absence, many derogatory articles have appeared in the Japanese press. There are at present more than 1,500 Koreans detained at the Omura camp and we are anxious to see them released as much as you do your fishermen in Korea. I had a good mind to counter those articles but did not do so in consideration of the good name of Ishii and Kishi and many of my close friends. You know very well that I went to Korea on June 12 for purely personal reasons and it was not to have the memos signed before Kishi's departure for Washington. At our preliminary talk on the 10th, there was much heated discussion concerning the U.S. Memorandum. Later in the afternoon, Counselor Miyake called to the effect that our meeting on the 11th would have to be postponed as it was not possible for Japan to accept our proposal as it was. I agreed to Miyake. On the afternoon of the 11th, Kishi's office informed me that the Prime Minister would like to see the ambassador and me at his office. When we were at his office, the Prime Minister proposed that I meet with the officials of the Foreign Ministry and draw up drafts of agreements even if they were to take up the whole night. At that time Kishi told me he would like to see them signed before his departure, but if that was not possible, Ishii, as acting Prime Minister could do so in his absence. It was Kishi himself who said it. As you are well aware, we talked with your side until 2 .m. the next morning. The talk was carried out not for the sake of having the memorandums signed before Kishi's departure but because I would be leaving Japan the next day and the preliminary talks would be postponed indefinitely. We had much discussion on the U.S. memorandum on that day as well as on the detainee issue, but we failed to reach any concrete agreement.

"While I was in Korea, it was reported in Japan that I had taken with me the drafts of our agreements. But I would like to make clear that the drafts came to me in the afternoon of the 14th. After receiving them, our Foreign Office studied them, and the time taken was inevitable since the other ministries concerned had to be consulted. Also before getting the President's approval, we had to make a few changes. The statements in the Japanese press were not only regrettable but they were also very childish."

V Kitazawa: "I shall not say here that I am sorry, but when Kishi returns I shall see to it that Nakagawa is reprimanded. It was Nakagawa who gave such hints. His purpose was to embarrass not only the Korean side but Kishi as well. I believe that Vice Minister Ohno will convey his regrets to Ambassador Kim.

"At the cabinet meeting on the 18th, Ishii told the ministers to be careful in their statements on Korea-Japan issues."

Yiu: "I would like to repeat that you discuss with the officials concerned what I have just explained to you and make them agree to us. As to the signing, we do not particularly wish for Ishii to sign and we would wait for Kishi's return."

Kitazawa: "When Ishii returns, I shall explain the situation to him. It would also be desirable that you give me a copy of the changes you have made. I shall study it in secret with Ishii."

After consultation with Ambassador Kim, I sent Kitazawa a copy of our amended drafts.

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