



November 25, 1955
Letter, President Syngman Rhee to Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim Yong-shik]

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Summary:

Request to make a statement that Japanese government shows sincerity in negotiations

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CONFIDENTIAL

November 25, 1955

To : Minister Yong Shik Kim

From : The president

Since we telephoned you to agree to Japan's proposal, I thought the Japs should agree to deport even a few of certain Korean political refugees who make the most damaging movements in Japan. We must demand their deportation and the Japs have no reason to protect them.

Since you made the statement to the effect that arrangements had been agreed upon, it would be very hard for us to back down if the Japs are going to live up to their word. Now, however, they are going back on their promise and making a lot of excuses on account of the Cabinet approval, etc. This would be a good time for us to utilize that opportunity by saying that Japan's duplicity changes the situation and that we will not abide by it until the Jap government shows a sincerity in negotiations. We will just delay the matter.

In the meantime you should make a statement to the Japs laying the whole blame for the delay on their government and the Japanese people will get after their government which will make it hard for them to hold on any longer. At any rate, the Japs will not agree to any terms that will not add to the glory and honor of their government officials. Let us hang on to this and so long as the Jap fishermen continue to violate our peace line we will capture and lock them up. We must have a clear case on which to insist that they must agree to the peace line.

The most important thing to do at the present time is to include the deportation of all criminals who are doing the most damage to the relationship between the two countries. In addition we might say the Jap government is conducting an anti-Korean movement through the Korean and Jap communists and they must prohibit them from promoting, publicly or privately, any anti-Korean movement, politically or otherwise. If we make that known to the Jap people they will not care if the Korean conspirators are protected in Japan or deported to Korea. I think the situation will be very interesting and if we act discreetly and skillfully we can win some points at this time without showing our policy that we intend to stir up the Jap public against their government to demand the release of their fishermen from Korea.

cc: Amb. Yang
Yiu (tokyo)