

November 26, 1953

Letter, Syngman Rhee to John W. Staggers

Citation:

"Letter, Syngman Rhee to John W. Staggers", November 26, 1953, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-014-044, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/122775>

Summary:

Syngman Rhee response to "Jack" of Phillips Associates regarding an offer of seed corn to distribute in Korea. He mentions issues with the Indian Custodial Force who were guarding prisoners of war following the armistice agreement.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



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Dear Jack,

I read your letter regarding the Phillips Associates and the Michael Leonard Company who offered to bear the cost of the purchase of seeds distributed to our Government. It is a very generous offer and we appreciate it beyond expression. These seeds will work miracles in Korea as we are improving the old method of farming and farming instruments. However, we would like to know in advance if there is any expense to meet or any service to render in carrying out this project.

I am informed that some business concern or individual has brought a legal suit against you. If this is true, do not hesitate to let me know. If it is not so, you need not do so.

The 5,500 Indian troops who were brought here to guard the war prisoners, are causing a lot of trouble. I understand that the people of America do not know why we do not cordially welcome them, but I am sure they will soon find out why. They are trying to bring pressure on me from all sides urging Korea never to take any military action, if the political conference should fail to bring about the unification of Korea. We told them repeatedly that so long as the Chinese troops, a million or more of them, remain in Korea, there will be no peace in Korea as far as Korea is concerned.

I hope you and your family are well. Do come over to see us next spring.

Cordially,

Staggs