

January 10, 1951

Letter, Syngman Rhee to Harold Lady

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Summary:

Syngman Rhee replies to Harold Lady regarding the sale of scrap iron.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 10, 1951

Dear Harold:

Yours of January 3 together with the enclosure has been received.

Regarding the sale of scrap we would like to sell about 300,000 tons. I am sure there are enough of scraps collected much more than that but the present war situation left only a small area available. We will collect as much as we can but we cannot deliver owing to the lack of ships.

At present we will agree to start with 100,000 tons of scrap iron collected and piled up either in Pusan, Masan or Oolsan as most convenient for them. But to cut the scrap and sort them out according to your suggestion is not possible for us at present. We will rather have their men come and do the cutting. We will deduct from the price so much expense for that work. This should be mentioned in our agreement, how much to cost us. I authorize you to make the contracts and let me know so that we can expedite the matter.

I have been thinking of telling the Eighth Army that they should pass the US\$ instead of using the military script. The ECA demand for 4000/1 exchange rate has not been consented and we are not going to. We will stand pat on the present rate of 2500/1. Whatever they may say we do not know but we are going to stick to the present rate.

If we can get a 10,000 ton ocean going vessel or two in good condition we will be willing to pay any price. All the aid goods and collected articles for immediate relief are stored up in America, Honolulu and some in Japan. We need relief goods now but they cannot bring them fast enough due to the lack of transportation. If we buy two or three ships we will ask Gen. MacArthur to exempt them from military service because aid and relief in the war front at the present time is just as important as military demands. If you can get some ships see what you can do to buy them.

Cordially,