

November 30, 1956
Report No. 102 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the cable message to President Eisenhower from Korea, China, Vietnam, etc, about taking concrete action on the Hungarian Revolution, which the Philippines declines to sign.

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Report No. 102

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

November 30, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Having received your cable message on the Hungarian question on Saturday afternoon, I tried to present the same to Vice President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia on Monday morning; but due to heavy pressure from the impending PI-US military bases talk, I was unable to see him until Tuesday morning. When I presented a letter containing the full text of your cable message to President Magsaysay, he expressed sympathetic understanding of the Hungarian situation. He further stated that he fully agrees with your sentiment expressed in the message but he disfavours the wording of "concrete action" which interprets a positive action in the intervention of Hungarian war by the United States through the United Nations.

I regret to inform you that the Philippine government declines to be a co-signer of the proposed cable message which is to be signed by the Chiefs of State of Korea, China, Philippines and Vietnam, for transmission to President Eisenhower.

The substance of the Vice President's talk with me on this matter is summarized as follows:

"We respect the sentiment expressed in the cable message which I read. I personally agree with President Rhee in his desire to help Hungarian people to achieve liberation. But we (meaning the Philippines included) are not in a position to urge the United States through the United Nations with the voluntary help of other countries to take concrete action immediately to help brave Hungary. Concrete action, intimating military intervention, means war. In my opinion, America would not go to war for Hungary's sake. It is wise to watch for further developments."

"The Philippines, being a member of the United Nations, fully supports a resolution of the UN General Assembly calling for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. There is another resolution introduced by the Nationalist Chinese delegation urging the UN members to condemn the Soviet aggression in Hungary and final expulsion of Soviet from the United Nations."

With regard to Mr. Magsaysay's state visit to Korea, the Vice President said that it would be possible for President Magsaysay to visit Korea, Taiwan, Japan on his official visit to the United States in 1957. He further stated that Mr. Magsaysay has been invited through the embassies in Manila of the United Kingdom, Spain and Italy to visit the respective countries. If time permits, He will return home via Europe in the next spring.

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The Philippine position is different from Korea, Nationalist China and Vietnam in her anti-communist fight. She has not suffered any Communist aggression. What the dissident elements, Huks, had done in the Philippines is nothing in comparison with the destruction in life and property and terrors brought upon the three unfortunate countries. The Philippines is isolated from the mainland Red China. Her military and economic cooperation with the United States assures full protection from outside invasion.

In order to capture a seat in the Security Council, the Philippines instructed its delegation in New York to solicit all the support for her bidding in the UN Security Council membership of which one seat ~~will be~~ vacated by the voluntary withdrawal of Yugoslavia by the end of this year. For the reason of promoting foreign trade, the Philippine government is very cautious in her diplomatic relations with Asian-African countries. For the reasons stated above, the Philippine government is reluctant to join hands with us.

As the Philippines is deeply involved in her domestic problems of economic stability, industrial expansion and rural development, she is not primarily interested in what is going on abroad, except the United States. In a sense they are self-centered people.

Senator Claro M. Recto, the administration's critic, urged the U.S. to show a sympathetic understanding of the Philippine position instead of allowing the bases talk to collapse. Karl Bendetsen, U.S. chief negotiator, announced his departure with his advisors as a result of a deadlock in the jurisdiction issue in the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The base negotiators, getting tired of haggling over the dispute abruptly told that the next PI-US military bases talk should be resumed by the Chief Executive of the Philippines and the State Department.

Mr. Magsaysay, apparently alarmed over the calling-off of the bases negotiation, put pressure on the Philippine panel to soften their demand and reach an agreement.

Recto, on the other hand, joined a growing move for the abrogation of the base agreement if the U.S. panel would not resume to bring about satisfactory settlement. He further said that his country would be exposed in an emergency because of the presence of American bases here. The Philippines assumes a great risk by agreeing to the establishment of the military bases which would be target of nuclear attack by an enemy in case of war.

House minority floor leader Eugenio Perez was sworn in as member of the Council of State to broaden the national policy of bipartanship in security, economic and foreign affairs of the government. It is a move urged by the Nacionalista party in power to pave the way for the election campaign next year.

Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York arrived here as a papal legate to officiate in the Second National Eucharistic Congress now in session and which will officially conclude on December 2. Pre-

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sident Magsaysay conferred on Cardinal Spellman the Order of Sikatuna award for the "extraordinary services to the cause of peace and freedom based on Godlike dignity of the human person and for the invaluable service he zealously pursued in order to translate the American friendship for the Filipino in terms of their welfare and security."

Cardinal Spellman told me that he would miss the Christmas trip to Korea this year where he had six consecutive Christmas seasons with the U.S. troops. He plans a stop-over in Okinawa and Tokyo enroute to the States.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee
President of the Republic of Korea,
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to Acting Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho.