

April 7, 1956
Report No. 79 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Syngman Rhee about the anti-American sentiment arising in the Filipino Congress and Korea's admission to SEATO.

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Report No. 79

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

April 7, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Anti-American feeling was sparked by the detention of mineral products which were mined at a U.S. military base, and it was further fanned by Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr., who blasted the U.S. discriminatory policy in matters ranging from economic and military aid to the Philippines. Vice President Carlos P. Garcia and Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. cautioned that undue criticism of the United States would invite harmful repercussion from the U.S. Congress of which the Southern senators are against granting further concessions to the increase of Philippine sugar quota to the U.S. In the face of deterioration of the U.S.-Philippine relations, President Magsaysay lauded the cooperation and aid given by the U.S. to the industrial development of the Philippines.

The high level discussion of the PI-US relations arising from misunderstanding on various pending questions, will be given priority for settlement as soon as Ambassador Ferguson's successor is appointed. The U.S. has asked for Philippine Government's approval of the appointment of Albert Nufer as Ambassador to the Philippines, now serving as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina. Nufer, 61 years old, is a native of New York and has been in the diplomatic service for the past 46 years. He was a representative to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council Meeting in 1949. He was also a director of the State Department's Office of Middle American Affairs.

The Senate-House amity was threatened when leaders of the upper chamber of Congress refused to join in a House proposal for a legislative-executive committee to re-examine PI-US relations. The executive branch is reluctant to go with the proposal for it might reflect lack of confidence in the President. House Speaker Jose B. Laurel, Jr. and House Majority Leader Arturo M. Tolentino said they would go along with the plan. Speaker Laurel, a critic of the SEATO military setup, put forward a four-point proposal which has been vigorously approved by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. His proposal embodies the following salient points: 1) participation in specific undertakings by all SEATO member nations, 2) oriental leadership of the proposed SEATO army, referring to Filipino leadership,

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3) Philippine participation in the army is limited to the air force, and 4) the United States will underwrite the Philippine force to the SEATO army. The Philippine Armed Forces would like to receive more military aid from the U.S.

It has been revealed that the SEATO military planners are scheduled to meet at Singapore on June 19 and the military advisors in Baguio on September 3, 1956.

With reference to your communication of March 28, 1956, I would like to inform you that Vice President Garcia had stated in a planeside interview at Hongkong upon arrival from Karachi that the Philippines would support the admission of Korea to the SEATO if the membership is approached by Korea.

Last evening, I had a long talk with the outgoing French Ambassador Jean Brionval, and he assured me that he will transmit his government's stand on the admission of Korea to the SEATO. He stated that he made favorable recommendation to his government in supporting Korea's membership to the SEATO. United Kingdom may not welcome Korea's entry to the SEATO for fear of membership application of Nationalist China whose recognition was withdrawn from the United Kingdom. Out of seven SEATO nations, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan are the only Asiatic nations having common interest in the defense of regional area. Korea, having a strong battle tested army, would become a bulwark in the SEATO military setup if she is fully admitted to the mutual defense organization. If and when Korea applies for membership to the SEATO, the Philippines will pledge her full support to Korea's application.

The Philippine Government has agreed to the appointment of George Cattand as France's new Ambassador here. Cattand, who is winding up his three year tour of duty as minister-counselor, is France's Chargé d'Affaires in Taipeh. He is a doctor of laws. The 53 year old diplomat has served in Shanghai, Tientsin, Milan and in the Foreign Ministry of France as deputy director of the Bureau of Asia and Oceania.

Faithfully yours,


YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy to Honorable Chung Whan Cho

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