

May 20, 1957
Report No. 118 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the increasing number of American arms in the Far East and the immigration issue between China and Philippines in Formosa.

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Report No. 118

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

May 20, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

In the past several weeks, a steadily increasing stream of American atomic warheads has found its way to the Far East, specially to the countries of Japan and Formosa. When the U.S. Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson indicated plans of sending atomic warheads to Korea as a means of countering a new communist build-up in North Korea, Philippine Defense Secretary Eulogio Balao, who is now in Washington, stated that the Philippines should be provided with guided missiles as an essential part of its defense program. The Philippines will soon acquire two more jet wings from the U.S. to reinforce its present aerial defense potential.

In Saigon, while 20,000 Vietnam-born Chinese had applied for permission to settle in Formosa in order to evade the Vietnamese decree to become its citizens, the Legislative Yuan of Nationalist China had agreed to urge the executive "to use force to protect overseas Chinese if this becomes necessary". The Chinese government announced that it would accept all Chinese willing to settle in Formosa. It is estimated that there are about half a million Vietnam-born Chinese who to avoid being drafted in the Vietnamese conscription are ready to reject citizenship.

The Philippine Foreign Office, watching the outcome of the Taiwan attitude toward the return of the Vietnam-born Chinese immigrants, would stiffen its position to settle the seven-year-old Chinese overstaying visitors issue. The scandal on the lobby money of twelve million pesos for legalizing the 2500 overstaying Chinese visitors in the Philippines raised so many sensational issues in Philippine politics notably in the Senate which is composed of all the ruling Nacionalista party members. Three Senators are reportedly involved in the "deal" to boost the campaign fund. While the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce, through its attorney Oscar Uy, approached the late President Magsaysay with the proposal to use a portion of the money for any of his pet projects in return for the favor of letting the overstayed Chinese enjoy permanent alien status, Magsaysay felt indignant at the Nacionalista Senators, so much so that he broke, with a blow

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of his fist, so the story runs, the glass top of his desk. Attorney Uy confessed that he offered two-thirds of contingent "professional fees" of four million pesos to President Magsaysay.

I received your directive No. 43 in regard to our government stand on the inclusion of Japan as a member of SEATO or any other anti-Communist organization. I carefully studied the contents and whenever opportune time arises, I shall convey to the proper authorities the expressed views on the subject matter. Nationalist China is economically dependent on Japan for her bulk of sugar and rice are exported to Japan, and China feels she cannot afford to hurt the feelings of Japan. In my personal opinion, to the Chinese, personal gain transcends all other lofty ideals such as patriotism or love of country.

In the Philippines, everything is centered on politics. There are thirteen presidential aspirants besides many other candidates for Senatorial and Lower House tickets. The political parties are busy devising ways and means to raise national campaign funds that will run up to millions of pesos. The Liberal Party expects to spend at least five million pesos for the national elections while the Nacionalista and Recto parties will need more or less the same amount that the Liberal Party puts up.

Your obedient servant,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to Minister Chung Whan Cho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.