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February 28, 1957
Report No. 109 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the Korean guest artists to the Cultural Foundation of the Philippines.

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The Syngman Rhee Institute

Report No. 109

February 28, 1957

Dear Mr. Minister:

Professor Wonsik Lim of the Seoul National University and Miss Hai Eun Hyun, violinist, are here as guest artists of the Cultural Foundation of the Philippines, the National Music Council, and the University of the Philippines President's Committee on Culture. Their plane fares to and from Korea were donated by the Seoul Asia Foundation while their hotel and incidental expenses are guaranteed by the host organizations. Their visit has been arranged by Professor Ramon Tapales of the University of the Philippines while he was in Korea last winter as guest conductor of the Seoul Symphony orchestra on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Seoul National University.

I was told that the travelling and incidental expenses for the Filipino musician and his piano accompanist were paid by the Seoul National University besides a gift allowance of three hundred dollars per person as a token of contribution to participating in the Tenth Anniversary celebrations. The exchange of cultural emissaries certainly enhance closer relations between the two countries.

The guest conductor of the Philippine University symphony orchestra and the teenage violinist were accorded a rousing welcome at the concert on the afternoon of February 27, when the University auditorium was overcrowded with music lovers of Manila. Honoring the Korean maestro, a reception was held at the legation residence last Saturday evening where leaders of cultural organizations and talented musicians were invited to meet our honored guests. It was a grand success for mostly Filipino educators and musicians came to greet the honored guests.

Deportation of one hundred Chinese in the country who have continuously been listed as "tax delinquents and evaders" since 1952 is being sought by the Internal Revenue Collector. The account sought to be collected is estimated at one million pesos.

Their Excellencies Erik Dons, Norwegian minister with residence in Bangkok, and Jens Malling, Swedish minister, arrived here to present their credentials to President Magsaysay on February. H. E. Erik Dons is also concurrently accredited to the Indonesian government.

I am glad that you sent me a copy of the provisional trade agreement between the Philippines and Korea which was drafted by FORMIN and transmitted to Philippine Minister Garcia for study and consultation with his government.

263

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The Philippines has greatly benefited in its trade with Hongkong as a result of permitting barter with the British Crown colony. It was revealed that the Philippine imports from Hongkong in 1954 totalled ₱17,304,000; in 1955, ₱17,836,000; and in 1956, ₱14,723,000. The Philippine exports to Hong-Kong during the same period in 1954 amounted to ₱3,471,000; in 1955, ₱3,109,000. But in 1956, the exports phenomenally rose to ₱11,271,000 due to extension of the barter permit with Hongkong.

2 copies
Mr. Park

I received a letter dated February 18, 1957 from Mr. Chin Hang Kong, Chairman, Korean Chapter of the Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League, stating that the Korean Artists' Goodwill Mission, composed of 90 members of the Seoul Symphony Orchestra and 20 actors and actresses who will dramatize Choon Hang, will visit Manila on April 15 to 20. Mr. Kong sent a copy of the letter to Mr. Jose Ma. Hernandez requesting him to render full cooperation to the visiting 120 leading Korean artists, for the success of their mission in the Philippines.

Mr. Kong failed to mention about the expenses in connection with the Good-will Missioners' visit here. I will lend all the assistance they need. The only thing I am afraid of is the time of their scheduled visit in Manila. April 15 to 21 being Holy Week in the Philippines, practically all social engagements are either curtailed or postponed to the following week. I wonder if all these minor yet important matters were taken into consideration prior to the time the tentative itinerary was drawn up. April 18, 19, and 20 are legally declared holidays in observance of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

During the Holy Week, lots of people go to Baguio or some other place in order to get away from the sultry heat in Manila. If the Korean play and con-cert are shown free of charge, it might draw the crowd. After all, it costs money to make preparations for the performance of the play and concert. Several months ago, Nationalist China and Indonesia sent their Goodwill artists to pro-mote cultural relations, and neither contributions nor sale of tickets were solicited by the committee in charge of the visiting artists. Besides, they spent considerable sum of money during their stay, and Korean Goodwill Missioners expect to spend their own money, too.

In connection with the visa for special passport, may I inform you that no visa fee was collected on special passports issued to the members of the Filipino basketball team which visited Korea in 1955. As it was customary, an official communication from the Philippine Foreign Office drew our attention to the fact that the basketball team members representing the Philippines were entitled to special privileges. On several occasions, special passports were issued to persons visiting Korea and no visa fee was asked from them. This might be reciprocable to the members of the Cultural Goodwill missioners who contemplate an extended trip to the Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines.

Yours very truly,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Minister Chung Whan Cho, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul, Korea.

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee, Seoul, Korea.

264