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February 9, 1957
Letter, Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Letter, Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", February 9, 1957, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-181, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/123448

Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on President Magsaysay's urge to the Congress on the top priority of the government and Philippines' rejection of further reparations payments from Japan.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

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Report No. 109

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

February 9, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

In the state-of-the-nation message to the Congress, the President advocated continuation of economic control to curb the threatening inflation. After touching on the achievements of his administration during the past three years, Mr. Magsaysay urged the Congress to give top priority to 1) passage of measures to check increase in price and in the cost of living; 2) to encourage private foreign investment; 3) create national development authority to implement economic progress; 4) restore the department of interior to pay close attention to the needs of local government; and 5) outlaw the communist party.

The lawmakers propose to nationalize alien banks of which four are controlled by Chinese, 2 American, 2 British, and 1 Spanish. The main purpose is to prohibit the opening of any branch bank, particularly of Japanese interest.

When Tomas de Castro was calling on the President after his return from the world tour, he was prevailed upon to accept the position as the presidential foreign affairs advisor which he declined last October. He is welcomed by his friends to be reinstated to the foreign service.

Senator Lorenzo Tañada sought the support of his colleagues for the Philippine rejection of further reparations payments from Japan. He said that the Philippine reparations mission in Tokyo had stumbled into evidence of Japanese overpricing of reparations goods as much as 35 percent higher. The Philippines charged that Japan earmarked for delivery to the Philippines as reparations items which were at least 50 years old. If the Philippines accepts the obsolete Japanese items, spare parts would have to be imported for the next 100 years.

Shoichi Yanase, former captain of the military police, who was stationed at Fort Santiago during the Jap occupation, arrived in Manila here as one of the 11-person goodwill mission, and anti-Japanese feeling generated by the Gold Star Mothers Association forced his early deportation from Manila. In fact, the so-called goodwill missioners came here without their visas having been properly processed at the Philippine embassy in Tokyo.

Upon the receipt of the cable instruction from Formin, an official invitation was extended on February 1 through the German Minister in Manila to the deputy foreign minister of Germany,

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Walter Hallstein, requesting him to visit Korea. German Minister von Furstenberg informed me that he had transmitted the message to his home government with the hope that it may reach Mr. Hallstein who is enroute to the Far East. Last evening, I met Mr. Hallstein at a dinner party given by German Minister von Furstenberg. He expressed his appreciation for the official invitation to visit Korea. He said he is not sure when he could spare a day or two for his visit to Korea. However, details can be arranged on his arrival in Tokyo, I was assured.

He said he knows Ambassador Dowling personally and he is looking forward to renewing his old friendship with him. Minister Yong Shik Kim would be in a better position to map out a detailed plan for the visit to Korea of the deputy foreign minister of Germany.

A buffet dinner for thirty people serving broiled meat and other delicacies were all enjoyed by Filipino politicians, AP Manila manager, ICA and American embassy people. A few days later, a formal dinner was tendered for the diplomats: Thai ambassador, Belgian minister, Chinese minister, Mexican Charge d'Affaires, British counsellor, Justice of the Supreme Court, and their leadies. Typical Korean dish of sinsulro, kochojang and kimchee were served and everyone relished the Korean food.

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.

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