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December 28, 1956
Report No. 105 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Report No. 105 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", December 28, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-339-196, 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/123454

Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister George K.C. Yeh's visit to Manila.

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Original Language:

English

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The Syngman Rhee Institute

Report No. 105

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

December 28, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

In a few days the year 1956 will fade into oblivion, it is almost three years since I came here to open up the first diplomatic mission in Manila fostering economic, military, political and cultural relations between Korea and the Philippines. I am deeply grateful to you, Mr. President, for the honor and confidence placed in me to serve you under your inspiring leadership during the last three years. It is fortunate that we moved into a new house which is presentable to the Philippine public as legation residence and chancery. The furnishings and furniture are adequate enough to uphold our dignity and prestige. As wife of a diplomat, Louisa helps me to carry on social functions by meeting and entertaining all sorts of people.

The President and Mrs. Magsaysay were gracious enough to send us a pair of jade cuff links and a lady's fan as Christmas gifts. It is said that this is the first time the Chief Executive and First Lady made Christmas presents to the mission chiefs. We sent to Vice President Garcia and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Manglapus pearl-in-laid Korean lacquer ware as Christmas remembrances, and Captain C. Montano, Foreign Relations Officer, as well as the Protocol Officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration and Customs Commissioners were complimented with small gifts.

A major reshuffle and some changes in the general staff and field command of the Philippine Armed Forces took place, and Major General Alfonso Arellano will be the Chief of Staff, replacing Lt. General Jesus Vargas whose retirement after thirty years service becomes effective at the end of this month.

Chinese Foreign Minister George K.C. Yeh is expected to visit Manila early next January en route to Taipeh from the United Nations. Urgent matters affecting the Philippines and Nationalist China will be taken up by the Philippine government officials and the Chinese dignitary: 1) Repatriation of some 2500 Chinese temporary visitors whose visas have expired; 2) Release of $ 3 million worth of assets belonging to the Chinese government which had been frozen by the Central Bank; and 3) the release of some Chinese nationals who are being held on the charge of various offenses.

A twelve million peso budget for the Department of Foreign Affairs submitted by Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia was turned down by the budget commissioner and a ceiling of ₱ 7.7 million is set for the fiscal year from July, 1957 to June, 1958.

-98

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

The budget reveals that the government's expected income of ₱ 700 million is short of the estimated expenses of ₱ 800 million for the next fiscal year.

To be effected under Garcia's plan are contributions to ECAFE, International Civil Aviation Organization, Colombo Plan, WHO, International Labor Organization, and SEATO. Garcia argued that his department should not bear all the financial burden and farm out contributions to different agencies that are directly benefited by the World Organizations. He further said that lack of funds has held up regular rotation of foreign service personnel, kept at rock bottom vital expenses for representation and prevented further participation in international conferences.

Louisa and I wish to thank you for your kind Christmas gift which we appreciate and enjoy eating. Louisa joins me in wishing you and Madam Rhee continued excellent health and happiness in the early reunification of Korea this coming year.

Your obedient servant,

Young Kee Kim

YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Chung Whan Cho

299