



At 2:00 p.m. on December 21, 1955, Mr. Nakamura, head of Guard Section of Japanese Immigration Agency, accompanied by one of his assistants, visited Consul-General Choi at the Mission, and the following conversation was exchanged between the Korean and Japanese officials:

Mr. Nakamura: The purpose of my visit to you this afternoon is to ask for your understanding in regard to the conditions prevailing in Omura Camp. Recently, the number of Korean illegal entrants increased and the camp was almost crowded. Therefore, the Japanese Government is now thinking about the possibility of detaining new Korean illegal entrants in Hamamatsu Camp which was established mainly for detaining Chinese illegal entrants. And in order to decrease Japanese financial burden to be incurred due to the detention of Korean illegal entrants for a long period, the Japanese Government wishes to see the Korean Government accept deportation of Korean illegal entrants at an earliest possible date.

Mr. Choi: I am sure that you also know about the arrangement made between Minister Kim of this Mission and Japanese Justice Minister Hanamura regarding the settlement of Omura case. That agreement was duly reached between the two gentlemen and I cannot see any reason why the Japanese Government does not abide by its official commitment on this matter. If the Japanese Government had put into practice the said agreement, most of Korean detainees in Omura Camp and Japanese detainees in Pusan Camp who completed their prison terms could have already been released. Minister Kim accepted Mr. Hanamura's proposal in this regard from humanitarian viewpoint. Therefore, I cannot find out any propriety in connection with the Japanese Government's refusal of the terms of the agreement. As has been repeatedly emphasized, the Japanese Government should effectuate the immediate release of the prewar Korean detainees from Omura Camp prior to its request that the Korean Government accept the deportation of post-war Korean illegal entrants. The Japanese Government cannot unilaterally deport those Koreans who entered Japan before the termination of the World War II pending the settlement of the problem on nationality and treatment of Korean residents in Japan at the Korea-Japan Conference. Accordingly, it is without any legal ground that the Japanese Government continuously detains Koreans belonging to the said category. And it must be pointed out that the Japanese Government's detention of such Koreans in Omura Camp is a serious violation of the basic human rights.

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I have to reiterate that the responsibility for any delay in settlement of the cases on Omura and Pusan camps rests entirely with the Japanese Government, because your Government has failed to abide by the terms of the arrangement already made between the chief of this Mission and the Justice Minister of Japan.

(At this point, Nakamura's assistant said that he was sure the only way of solution of this case is for Japan to put into practice the terms of the said agreement, but Nakamura made excuses, saying this and that.)

Mr. Nakamura: In regard to the Omura case, I will report to my superior about your insistence that Korean detainees in Omura Camp should be released first in advance of making request for acceptance of deportation of post-war Korean illegal entrants. Taking this opportunity, I wish to point out one more thing, that is, there are a number of Koreans now under detention at Omura Camp who are desirous of returning to north Korea instead of south Korea. I think that the reason why these Koreans wish to go to north Korea is that your Government does not accept the simple illegal entrants.

Mr. Choi: No, my Government will receive the simple illegal entrants if your Government abides by the terms of the Kim-Nakamura agreement. As I pointed out a few minutes ago, your Government should be held responsible for any delay in settling the Omura case, and I have to make it clear again that your Government should not send these Koreans to north Korea. No free nations of the world will say such things that Koreans might be deported to north Korea. As you know, north Korea is integral part of the territory of the Republic of Korea, although it is now under unlawful military occupation by the Korean and Chinese communist forces. If the Japanese Government should deport any of Korean detainees in Omura Camp, it will create a most adverse effect upon the existing relations between the Republic of Korea and Japan. You have to realize that no Koreans can be sent anywhere or any part of the Korean territory without the approval of the Government of the Republic of Korea which has been recognized by UN resolutions as the only legitimate Government of Korea.

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I deeply regret that your Government does not put into practice the Kim-Hanamura arrangement. Thus, your Government should be held responsible for any result which may be caused by the unjustifiable delay on your part in implementing the said arrangement.

Mr. Nakamura: I will report to my superiors about your view on the Omura case.