



Report No. 68

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

December 19, 1955

Dear Mr. President:

I have been reliably informed that the Philippines has been given top priority in the choice of a site for the establishment of the atom for peace research. The Philippine Government, though anxious to receive such favorable consideration from the Washington government, has not yet set up working machinery to implement the atomic research which will spend up to \$20 million to start with. Japan is considered scientifically capable but militarily dangerous. Language barrier is another problem to cope with. The New York Times, in an editorial supported the decision of the U.S. in setting an atomic reactor in the Philippines.

Foreign diplomatic circles here said chances for a Philippine-Jap reparations settlement suffered a setback in Japan's failure to gain admission in the United Nations. The Philippines sent a sharp note to Hatoyama demanding an early settlement without much fussing and excuses.

Vice President and concurrently Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Garcia expressed the Philippines' sympathy for the membership applications of Korea and Vietnam which were vetoed by the Reds. However, the Philippines abstained in Japan's case during the U.N. consideration of individual membership application. The failure of Jap to be admitted into the U.N. this year strengthens bargaining position of the countries including the Philippines.

The Apostolic Nuncio was telling that the Conference of the Lay Apostolate that was concluded here in the early part of this month awakened a new sense of security by uniting all Christian forces including Catholics, Protestants and Moslems in their crusade against the ungodly menace of Communism in the Orient.

I have been approached by an official of the Philippine Foreign Affairs office with the suggestion of raising the Philippine Legation embassy status and



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reciprocated by our Government, and I told him that the elevation from legation to embassy has to be decided at the ^{high} level discussion. From next year, there will be only two or three legations, including our own, that will be maintained in Manila, while the other diplomatic missions will be represented by their respective embassies.

With the best of the Season's greetings to you and Madame Rhee.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee,
President of Korea,
Seoul.

Copy to the Acting Foreign Chun Whan Cho.