

July 7, 1954

Letter, Francesca Donner Rhee to Mrs. Van Fleet

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Summary:

Personal letter to the wife of James Van Fleet.

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July 7, 1954

Dear Mrs. Van Fleet:

We were disappointed that you did not return with Ambassador Van Fleet. Arrangements were made at the Guest House and Chai Ok was waiting to take care of you. But we fully understood your decision to remain home in view of the crowded schedule. It would have been a very tiring trip for you.

No doubt the Ambassador has told you about the fishing trip in Chinhae which was in every respect a failure. There were no fish and a terrific undercurrent rattled the boat in every direction. The only good was that the Ambassador and the President and Major Mathews got a good sun burn and lots of fresh air.

The Ambassador mentioned that he would like to get some Korean servants for your Florida home, possibly a man and wife. Unfortunately, I had no opportunity to discuss this with him further before he left. I have made some inquiries and have run into difficulties regarding the possibility of getting a man and wife because elder couples could not adjust themselves easily and the language barrier would have to be considered. Younger couples have children whom they cannot leave behind. One possibility would be Miss Kim, who, you will recall, worked in our office as a copy typist. She could help with sewing as she is a good seamstress, could iron and press, could take care of your hair (she is a professional beauty operator), and could help with the general housework. As you know her and she is very willing and would love to be with you I really feel she could be of help to you.

As for a houseboy, we could perhaps get a boy who is out of the Army and who knows how to drive and has other qualifications for a handiman.

In order to avoid the difficulties involved in getting them over, we could send them as servants



Mrs. Van Fleet

2

July 7, 1954

for the Embassy and arrange salary and other details through the Embassy. The Embassy would loan them to you.

Before we make any arrangements I wish you would let me know how soon you would like to have them, and if you would want to have a young woman, a young man, or both.

I hope you are enjoying a restful and pleasant summer. The President joins me in sending you and the Ambassador our good wishes always.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James A. Van Fleet
Route 1, Box 114
Auburndale, Florida