

1954

Memorandum, Ralph Handleman to John W. Staggers

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Summary:

Ralph Handleman explains his dispute with Chang Soon Yoo, the manager of the Bank of Korea.

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Memorandum: John W. Staggers
From : Ralph Handleman
Subject : Adverse Report

In reply to your request for information on reports made against me. Referring to the adverse report made about me which grew out of a situation in Washington, the facts are as follows:

About thirty days prior to my departure for Korea, I was advised by the Vice-president of our company, Mr. Soucy, that Korean Ambassador had sent Mr. Vandt to see me about making a phonograph record of Miss Kim's singing voice.

We met Mr. Vandt in the office of Mr. Chang Soon Yoo, the manager of the Bank of Korea on Wall Street. Mr. Soucy and myself agreed to hear Miss Kim sing that evening. That evening we heard Miss Kim sing, then Mr. Vandt showed me a design of a record on paper that showed "YOO-VANDT" PRODUCTION. I then asked Mr. Vandt where he stood in reference to the commercial aspect of the record. He stated that I would put up the \$5,000.00 in order to produce the record and he would receive a royalty on each record. I stated that Miss Kim had a nice voice, but I wanted to think it over.

The following day, I learned that Mr. Chang Soon Yoo, the manager of the Bank of Korea, was angry with because I didn't put up the \$5,000.00 as they had requested. I called Mr. Vandt on the phone and made an appointment with him. The next morning I told him that I had invested \$45,000.00 of my own money plus obligating myself for \$27,000.00 in rents to help create a market for Korean handicraft goods and that I had not asked for FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM ANYONE and above all I was not asking for any thanks or expressions of appreciation --- I was doing this only because I firmly believe in the principals for which Korea is fighting for and that I had the greatest respect and admiration for the Korean people. But I was not interested in putting anyone in business when they use the disguise of "trying to help Korea." Mr. Vandt, as far as I knew, was the only one to receive any benefits by virtue of \$5,000.000 investment.

Since the above incident I had heard that Mr. Cahng SoonYoo was making disparaging remarks about --- which I chose to ignore. On the morning of March 20th, I received unsolicited information about more disparaging remarks about me that were made by Mr. Chang Soon Yoo. I finally wrote Mr. Chang a letter of which a copy is hereto attached.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ralph Handleman