

January 13, 1954

Letter, John W. Staggers to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

John B. Staggers cautions Syngman Rhee not to do anything that could destroy his position and reputation.

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JOHN W. STAGGERS
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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January 13, 1954

The Honorable, Dr. Syngman Rhee
President Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Dear Dr. Rhee:

My thirty years association with you has put me in a position to keep abreast with the past as well as present current events in Korea. The present situation is very clear in my mind.

You are now recognized throughout the free world as one who stood firm against the spread of Communism in Asia and especially in Korea. You have gained a warm and kindly spot in the hearts of the American people, and, the freedom loving people of the world. Also, you have given hopes to those behind the Iron Curtain, who seek their freedom. This puts you into a never to be forgotten position.

Viewing the present situation from the sidelines, one gets a better perspective than those engaged in the controversy.

The seeds that you have ~~own~~ sown are and will continue to grow thus building a gigantic bulwark against Communism wherever it may be. Therefore, I would suggest and my advice would be, not to permit anything to be done that would weaken and possibly destroy the position you and your Government now hold in the eyes of the world.

We have a new administration and one that has given every indication that it intends to stand firmly back of the Korean Government. The Administration cannot correct in one year, situations that developed over a period of twenty years.

I know that you have to consider the wishes of the Korean people and I know that great pressure is brought to bear upon you. No man in history has had more patience than you. I suggest that you let other existing forces spend themselves before taking any unilateral action.

I am looking forward to seeing you in the near future and having an opportunity to discuss these subjects which mean so much to you and your country.

With kind personal regards to both you and Madame Rhee, I am

Sincerely yours,

John
J. W. STAGGERS

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