

September 20, 1956
Report No. 95 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Syngman Rhee on the visits of Dr. Robert Oliver and Senator Allen J. Ellender to Manila.

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Report No. 95

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES*nee*

September 20, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The visit of Dr. Robert Oliver to Manila was fruitful and successful. Arrangement for his audience with the President was pre-arranged through the cooperation of Mr. J.V. Cruz, President's Press Secretary, and on the following morning of September 15, he delivered the speech at the University of the Philippines convocation. Accompanied by Mr. Modesto Farolan, a good friend of Korea, Robert paid a courtesy call to President Magsaysay. Robert was a luncheon guest of the President, who took the former to Malolos, Bulacan, where the President delivered an address on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Philippine Revolutionary Congress. In company with the President, Robert had a rare opportunity to talk with him about the Philippines' stand on neutralism.

We were invited to a Filipino dinner given by a Filipino educator and later on we attended a coronation ball at the Manila Hotel where Robert witnessed a colorful scene of the Filipino social life. One of the honored guests was Louisa, who pinned a prize ribbon on one of the beauty queens. The night before his departure, we gave a dinner at the Port Officers' Club where many prominent journalists, Filipino friends and Americans were invited to enjoy the evening with Robert. While Robert was in Manila, he wrote two timely articles, and we immediately mimeographed the same for distribution in Manila, U.S.A., and elsewhere. Attached herewith are two copies for your perusal.

Last week was unusually busy in entertaining so many friends, besides attending several diplomatic social functions. Mr. Harry L. Ettinger was visiting with us for several days. Dr. Chong Chin Lee, chief delegate to the Seventh Session of World Health Organization South Pacific Regional Committee made a fine representation. The alternate Do Soon Chung, Third Secretary and Vice consul assisted the chief delegate and gained some experience in attending an international gathering.

President Magsaysay was formally awarded the Freedom's Foundation gold medal, known as the George Washington Medal for "unparalleled spiritual and practical leadership for God and ^{his} country." Before the presentation, Dr. Frederick Brown Harris delivered half an hour remarks which listeners claimed sounded more of a sermon from the pulpit. Not to be undone, the President delivered one of his longest speeches ever to be delivered to the medal citation. Mr. Magsaysay recalled his fight against the communist-led Huks, the participation of the Philippines in the battle against the Red menace not only in this country but also in Korea.

139

- 2 -

The reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Harris at the legation residence was well attended by the leading clergymen, Filipino Church layman leaders and Ambassador Albert Nufer and other American friends. As the honor guests were held up at the presidential palace, our reception was packful when the Harrises arrived at our house. Dr. and Mrs. Harris were the house guests of Senator Lopez, former Vice-President of the Philippines. Dr. Harris was presented a cane by President Magsaysay. Senator Lopez me that he learned about Korea through Dr. Harris.

One day's visit of Senator Allen J. Ellender to the Philippines was not altogether pleasant, although he pledged to maintain the U.S. aid to the Philippines in support of President Magsaysay's rural development. His slurring remarks about Koreans were reported in the local press before his arrival and Col. Harry Brenn, chief of the International Cooperation Administration in the Philippines took him to a rural development project showing improvements achieved with the ICA fund. And he was feted by Mr. Magsaysay at the breakfast. He was the man who advocated the "open door" for the Japanese immigration a few years ago, and he was criticized by the press for his pro-Japanese attitude. The Manila Daily Bulletin (American) commented that the senator's qualification and influence "government purse strings" warrants an opinion on immigration problems and policies with relation to Japan." The Philippine Chronicle, taking note of another view expressed by Ellender that the Philippines shoulder one half of the cost of maintaining American bases here says: "The prevailing opinion of the United States in Asia is that it is a land inhabited by blustering and imbecile politicians. Such an opinion is justified by Ellender, for the man is not only ignorant but brash."

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The Evening News rebuked the remarks made by Ellender on Japanese immigration to the Philippines and further said: "Surely, the less number we get of this type of bolstering, unpleasant and uncultured visitors who pose as model representative of the American "homo sapiens", the better the cause of the Philippine-American friendship and mutual respect will be served."

The economic experts of the eight SEATO member nations concluded the third committee meeting at Bangkok last week and three principal matters taken up in the Bangkok conference are: 1) the measure that will have to be taken up by SEATO and by the member countries in providing for critical defense needs; 2) the impediments to the buildup of defense production capacities in the member countries; and 3) the economic policies of the communist bloc as they affect the SEATO. The Philippine chief delegate Dr. Amando Dalisay, Director of the University of the Philippines statistical center, reported that the most encouraging aspect of the discussions in Bangkok, was the Australian government's offer to provide the SEATO members technical assistance in training, including the meeting of serious deficiencies in the defense training sector.

138

- 3 -

Dr. Jose Hernandez who returned from the caucus of the Asian Peoples Anti-Communist League at Saigon called me up this morning saying that it is financially hard to send ten Filipino youth delegates to the forthcoming Anti-Communist Youth Conference to be held in Seoul from October 10 to 20, and further requested if it could be possible for the Filipino youth delegate to receive some financial assistance for the plane fare for 5 persons from Manila to Seoul and return. He said that many young people indicate their desire to attend the conference but due to financial difficulties they reluctantly decline to avail themselves of the opportunity to go. I have written to Mr. Chin Hong Kong explaining the financial circumstance of prospective Filipino youth delegates who are unable to defray round trip plane fare in the amount of \$640.00 per person.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul

13P