

**August 31, 1956**  
**Report No. 93 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the PI-US military bases negotiations, 1957 presidential election in Philippines, and transportation of Filipino workers from Manila to the US.

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Report No. 93

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

August 31, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

The current negotiations for the revision of the military bases agreement came to a stand-still for both panels do not seem to agree on a mutual ground for an amicable solution. The Philippine panel proposed to integrate three defense treaties between the two countries into one so as to coordinate the three separate defense pacts, namely: the bases agreement, the mutual defense pact and the military assistance treaty. The head-on clash is the question of jurisdiction over the military bases. The Philippines had insisted on the application and the operation of its laws within the bases as expression of its sovereignty, while the U.S. strenuously objected to the loss of authority to use and operate the bases effectively for their common defense.

The PI-US negotiators have agreed to postpone all plenary sessions to give the sub-committee time to finish their work. Members of the Lower House special committee on the re-examination of PI-US relations moved for a re-definition of the authority of the Joint United States Advisory Group here after charging that US officers had been interfering in the Philippine affairs outside the scope of their authority. House Majority Leader Arturo Tolentino urged the reduction of the American military advisors to the Philippines with the aim of eventually replacing them with all-Filipino advisory staff to be trained abroad.

The 1957 presidential election is being quietly mapped out by the political parties. While the Nacionalistas bid for the re-election of Mr. Magsaysay, the Liberal Party have approached former Chief Justice and Ambassador to Spain Manuel Moran to run as its presidential candidate, and the Manila chapter of the Democratic Party pledged their support to Judge Antonio Quirino in his bid for the presidency. Four hundred members of the Magsaysay-for-President Movement jumped on to Quirino's bandwagon. It is rather premature to talk of next year's presidential campaign, but strategists of different political parties are busy picking out the best man to contest the election of the incumbent President. As the election for presidency will be one sided in favor of Mr. Magsaysay, no formidable candidate dares to challenge the popularity of the President. Unless the Nacionalista Party splits itself, all the chances are in favor of Mr. Magsaysay for another four years.

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President Ramon Magsaysay has been voted for the 1956 Freedom House Award, it was announced by the selection committee, composed of previous winners of the same Award. Magsaysay was cited for "teaching his people how to use their newly gained freedom to develop their greatest potentialities, and demonstrating the advantages of the democratic way of life in an area of the world sorely beset by the forces of dictatorship."

Mr. Magsaysay observed his forty-ninth birthday today by slipping out of the Palace to undisclosed places, for as he puts it, he has "an aversion to the gift giving practice, if only to show that his Administration is different from those of past presidents." The second son of a humble blacksmith, Magsaysay is the Man of Destiny not only of his own people, but of other free peoples in Asia who look upon him for leadership.

The Vietnam government wants to strengthen its diplomatic relations by raising their legations in Seoul and in Manila and an exchange of ambassadors. It hopes to exchange ministers with Nationalist China which now maintains a consulate general in Saigon.

A re-assessment of the Communist threat to Southeast Asia in the light of the latest drives in this area, will be threshed out during the SEATO military advisors' conference to be held in Baguio starting September 1. The deliberations and proposals at the last SEATO staff planners conference in Singapore will be on the agenda. The Baguio conference will re-assess the Communists' threat in the light of: 1) the shooting down of a U.S. navy patrol plane off the China coast several days ago; 2) the conclusion of a pact of co-existence between the Reds and Laos; 3) the increased guerilla activities in Malaya, especially at the Malaya-Thailand border. It was believed that the SEATO military advisors would discuss the possibility of the completion of the Asian defense arc with the signing of a pact between Korea and Nationalist China. The discussion of defense pact between Korea and China is purely a conjecture.

Labor Secretary Eleuterio Adevos, in a memorandum sent to Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, stated that U.S. Federal authorities have approved the entry of 1,000 Filipino agricultural workers in California. The proposed PI contract for employment of Filipinos in California on the whole, compares favorably with those entered with Puerto Rico, Japan, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Mexico.

The Philippine Ambassador in Washington has been instructed to negotiate with the California employers to have the transportation for the Filipino workers from Manila to the States borne by the employers because it is too much burden for the agricultural workers to defray their travelling expenses.





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The period of employment would be definitely set at three years instead of six months and guaranteed take-home wage would be established in the contract.

Six thousand Filipino applicants, mostly unemployed, want to get any kind of job in the States because they feel that a steady work for a period of three years would give them a better future upon their return. They are not much concerned about the favorable treatment their government demands from the California fruit growers to be accorded to Filipino contract laborers.

Faithfully yours,

*Young Lee Kim*  
YOUNG LEE KIM

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

Copy to Acting Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho

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