

March 2, 1956
**Report No. 75 from Do Soon Chung to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Do Soon Chung reports to President Rhee on the resignation of Alfredo Montelibano as Acting Chairman of the National Economic Council.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

March 2, 1956

Excellency:

President Magsaysay took over as economic czar of the country, following his acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Alfredo Montelibano as Acting Chairman of the National Economic Council. The President will handle the affairs of this Office through an executive officer who will preside over Council meetings. Mr. Montelibano's resignation was the result of a misunderstanding with President Magsaysay. When Mr. Montelibano submitted his letter of resignation, he explained to the President that he wanted to be free to expound his views without embarrassing the administration. Mr. Montelibano said that as long as he was Chairman of the National Economic Council, it was inconsistent for him to expound views that did not conform entirely with existing administrative policies.

President Magsaysay assured the delegates to the First World Abaca Conference that his administration would do its best to increase the production of abaca. Mr. Magsaysay welcomed the delegates and expressed the hope that the Conference would prove beneficial to the abaca industry. He told them also that he would release at the proper time the balance of P18 million in the appropriation of the National Abaca Corporation.

The Philippine Chief Reparations Negotiator, Mr. Neri, and the Acting Chief of the Japanese Mission in Manila announced that they had finally cleared the last remaining roadblocks to an agreement on the Philippines-Jap reparations question. The two officials removed the remaining difficulties to an accord by reconciling the positions of their governments on the main features of the formula for settlement of the long-pending issue.

Former President of the Philippines Elpidio Quirino died of heart attack at 6:30 p.m. on February 29th at his Hilltop residence in Novaliches, where he had been in retirement since he stepped out of the presidency on December 30, 1953. He was 65 years old. President Magsaysay declared a two-week period of national mourning which would last up to March 15.

Faithfully yours,


DO SOON CHUNG

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

Copy to Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Whan Cho.

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