

January 30, 1956
Report No. 72 from Do Soon Chung to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Do Soon Chung briefs President Rhee on the 3rd regular session of the Congress of the Philippines.

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Report No. 72

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 30, 1956

Excellency:

It is my greatest honor to report to Your Excellency on behalf of Minister Young Kee Kim who is attending the Twelfth Session of the Economic Commission for the East and the Far East in Bangalore, India.

The Congress of the Philippines opened its third regular session on January 23, 1956. President Magsaysay urged congress to gear its tasks towards strengthening his administration's efforts in insuring the security and happiness of the common man. In a state-of-the-nation message on the opening day of the third session of congress, Mr. Magsaysay said that "what is good for the common man is good for the whole country". The President pointed out that the administration contemplated no change in its approach to the nation's problems, particularly on the basic economic objectives and policies. However, the Chief Executive outlined before the lawmaking body ten "guide-posts" which, he explained, should guide the congressmen and senators in the partnership of responsibility. The "guide-posts" called for: 1. Attainment of self-sufficiency in primary foodstuffs; 2. Acceleration of land reform; 3. Establishment of a strong administrative machinery for community development; 4. Utilization of the country's natural resources in the economic development; 5. Improvement of monetary and credit management to speed up economic development; 6. Adoption of educational reforms geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress; 7. Establishment of scientific research geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress; 8. Re-definition of the incentives for private enterprise; 9. Stabilization of the fiscal position of the government; and 10. Improvement of efficiency in public administration.

President Magsaysay set down a new government policy that only urgent and essential commodities should be imported under the no-dollar law and the existing barter trade agreements. He also ordered that such imported commodities should be disposed of through the National Marketing Corporation after the "barter-exporters" had been paid a price allowing reasonable profit.

Lt. General Jesus Vargas, armed forces chief of staff of the Philippines, who recently came back from Melbourne, Australia where the military advisors' conference of the South

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East Asia Treaty Organization nations was held, reported to the President that the recently concluded conference was fruitful and it strengthened very much the effectiveness of the defense and security of the treaty nations in this area. He said that staff planners from all the eight SEATO nations studied and discussed extensively various aspects of area defense and security, including intelligence, logistics, psychological action counter-subversion, standardization of procedures and techniques and combined military exercises to be undertaken by the treaty nations and that the plans agreed upon at the conference would be embodied in a report to be submitted to the council of ministers which is scheduled to meet in Karachi sometime in March.

Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines Miguel Cuaderno left on January 24th for the United States on a mission to secure additional financial aid for the country's industrialization program. Mr. Cuaderno's trip was prompted by the sinking dollar reserves and the agitation for imported allocation from local industries. He would confer with officials of the International Monetary Fund in Washington for the release of additional loans for Philippine economic development. He also might pave the way for a visit by President Magsaysay to the United States late this year.

President Magsaysay and his cabinet rejected a proposed three-way barter management of Philippine sugar with Iranian rice through Japan and decided instead on a direct barter of sugar with Burmese rice. They decided to abandon the barter with Japan in view of the unacceptability of Iranian rice. However, they agreed that the Department of Foreign Affairs should initiate a government-to-government negotiation with the representative of the Burmese government in Manila for direct barter of 20,000 metric tons of "D" sugar with Burmese rice on a "ton-to-ton basis".

The Jap government approved on January 27th the Philippines demand for \$800 million of World War II reparations, but put off a final decision on the payment formula. The payment plan would be approved after consultation with Philippine authorities by the Japanese Minister to the Philippines. The major objections of Japan are to the 20 million dollars cash called for by the Philippine formula and to having the Japanese government guarantee Philippine development loans included in the total.

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I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the colored film, "KAYAKUM", which Your Excellency kindly sent us. As soon as Minister Kim comes back to his post, we shall provide the "Korean Night" showing and introduce our handicraft products and show Korean films to the Diplomatic Corps and to the local people. I trust this will contribute greatly to the better understanding of our culture. The film will be sent back to Your Excellency at an earliest possible date.

As soon as the ECAFE conference is over, which will be on February 14th, Minister Kim will proceed to Seoul to personally report to Your Excellency and he will be accompanied by Mrs. Kim.

For Your Excellency's reference, I have the pleasure of enclosing herewith a copy of the "Philippine Industry and Trade" 1955, issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines.

Yours faithfully,


DO SOON CHUNG

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

Copy to the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs