

January 18, 1956
Report No. 71 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Report No. 71 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee", January 18, 1956, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-337-169, The Korean Legation in the Philippines, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/123295>

Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the military bases in Philippines and Philippine's concern about China's attempt to conquer Formosa.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Report No. 71 *see*LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 18, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

Having received a cable from ForMin on January 14 with instructions to proceed to Bangalore, India to represent Korea as chief delegate, I submit a brief report before my departure. I will be away from Manila from January 19 to February 17, and during my absence, Do Soon Chung, Third Secretary and Vice Consul will be the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

President Magsaysay released Three Million Pesos to develop the experimental 15,000 hectare (about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres) cotton plantation in Cotabato. The Philippines import One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos worth of textile per year, mostly cotton. It is expected that the cotton plantation will produce Five Million Pesos worth of cotton per year.

Out of twenty three (23) military bases in the Philippines, only four (4) are active - Clark Air Base, Camp John Hay, Subic Bay and Sangley Point. Sensitive to nationalism, the politicians have urged the Magsaysay administration to seek relaxation of U.S. stand on the military bases issue which the U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell have claimed American ownership of U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Mr. Magsaysay urged the public to refrain from discussing the military bases issue in the press. Unless the ownership of U.S. military bases is settled on high level negotiation between Ambassador Ferguson and Vice President Carlos P. Garcia, the expansion of military bases in the Philippines will be stymied.

The Taipeh Government is anxious to be admitted to the SEATO and Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Garcia said he would support the Taipeh Government's application for admission if it were made. However, Free China's stand in getting the required unanimous consent for admission into the eight nation collective security system is very slim, because United Kingdom and Pakistan do not recognize the Taipeh Government.

- 2 -

At the Karachi meeting next month where the council of ministers will meet, the Philippines will sponsor the Nationalist China's application for membership in the eight nation SEATO organization because the Philippines is weary of Red China's attempt to conquer Formosa, the spring-board of Jap invasion at the start of World War II. But neutral quarters are at present reticent on the matter concerning any premature announcement that might adversely affect any current negotiation.

Dr. Hernandez informed me of the cable confirmation he received from the Taipeh chapter of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League of its approval in the proposal of holding the Second Anti-Communist League Conference in Manila sometime in March. The Vietnamese Minister Cao Thai Bao assured me that President Diem will undoubtedly concur the decision of three chapters (Korea, Philippines and China) in the choice of Manila for the next meet. Hernandez will consult with the officials of the Philippine Government on the matter of being host nation to the delegations from other countries. It is very likely to be held in the early part of March. I would like to be present at the Second Anti-Communist League Conference to render any service the Korean delegation may need, although I may not take active participation in the deliberation.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim.
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee,
President of Korea,
Seoul.

Copy to the Acting Foreign Minister

30P

- 3 -

Supplementary to Report No. 71

On January 16, I received a Korpital cable advising me to return to Korea on or before January 19 for instructions and briefing in connection with the ECAFE Session, and the following morning, January 17, I cabled my answer to the effect that I would not be able to return because of lack of time for making the necessary airline connections. If I had known it earlier, I would have gone home to report to you personally the conditions in the Philippines. Louisa would also have accompanied me to Seoul, at her own expense. If permission is granted, I would like to have a two-week stay in Seoul sometime in the early part of May.

At the dinner party given in honor of American Ambassador Ferguson, I had a talk with Vice President Garcia about the ECAFE and the Philippine delegation to the Bangalore Conference. He will personally attend the SEATO Conference for the ministers of eight signatory nations and on his return, he will consult with President Magsaysay with regard to his prolonged visit to Korea and Formosa. He feels that since he is scheduled to visit Southeast Asian nations on his Karachi journey, he would like to conclude his visit with the neighbor countries like Korea and China.

On the question of raising the Legation to embassy status, he favors the elevation of legations of Asian countries to embassy and Korea is no exception. However, Vice President Garcia will take up the matter with President Magsaysay.

Dr. Hernandez called me up suggesting that the tentative date for the Second Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League be set on March 9 to 12 inclusive; and if agreeable, upon the confirmation of his government, Hernandez will send out official invitations to the member countries. He also told me that when he informed the President of the forthcoming Anti-Communist League Conference in Manila, the President has heartily approved the Meet with his blessings.

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Copy to Acting Foreign Minister

310