

March 29, 1957
Report No. 113 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Minister Kim briefs Minister Cho on President Magsaysay's death and the Asian assembly for Moral Re-armament.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

Congress declared a 10-day recess in deference to the passing of the late President Magsaysay and a moratorium on political talk during the one-month mourning period ending April 19 was agreed upon among the legislators. All the cabinet members including Mr. J. V. Cruz, President's Press Secretary tendered their "courtesy" resignations to President Garcia so that he may choose his own men of confidence. However, there will be several persons involved in the reshuffling of the cabinet posts including the position of Press Secretary in whom the late Mr. Magsaysay had placed much trust.

In regard to your instruction of inviting the President's Press Secretary and two other prominent journalists to visit Korea, I wish to inform you that that matter is now being deferred pending the appointment of a new Press Secretary or the retention of J. V. Cruz on the cabinet post as before.

The second East Asian Travel Commission conference now in session in Manila is being attended by the representatives of the Philippines, China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, and Hongkong. Upon receiving the cable instruction from the FOR-MIN, Third Secretary and Vice Consul Do Soon Chung attends the conference as official representative of our government.

U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Charles E. Bohlen has been nominated as the next ambassador to the Philippines.

The Asian assembly for Moral Re-armament opens today at Baguio, summer resort of the Philippines, for a ten-day session where 100 distinguished government, civic, student leaders and professionals from 20 countries will converge to find new ways to combat the growing menace of communism to build a new world without division, hate, and bitterness. Of the delegates, seven Koreans were supposed to arrive here this morning but their names were scratched off the airliner's passenger list.

Yesterday afternoon, one of the Filipino supporters of this movement, Senator Roseller Lim, called us saying that seven prominent Korean delegates (five men and two women) are expected to

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arrive in Manila on KIM at 3:10 a.m., and asked us for further information. He was advised that our chancery received no information either from the delegates nor from our Foreign Ministry. Upon the arrival of the Korean newspaper through the regular pouch, we scanned the news items and found that seven Korean delegates are scheduled to leave Seoul on March 28 to attend the Moral Re-armament assembly to be held on March 29 in the Philippines. On the list of the Korean delegates, we found that Congressman Sung Soon Yoon, chairman, Foreign Relations Committee, two Congressmen Young Sun Kim, Joon Chung, and four other persons listed as delegates. At three o'clock in the morning, we went out to the airport to welcome our congressmen and others but nobody showed up. I suppose, if nobody from our chancery, not knowing the time of arrival, welcomes them at the airport, our Congressmen and other delegates cannot blame us for non-performance of official duties to meet the legislators on their arrival.

Yours truly,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Minister Chung Whan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency Syngman Rhee, President of the
Republic of Korea.

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