

September 15, 1957
**L.H.K. Report No. 4 from Lincoln Hoon Kim to
Francesca Rhee**

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Summary:

Minister Kim briefs Mrs. Rhee on the social events of the week he attended.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

September 15, 1957

Your Honorable Madame,

I wish to thank Your Honorable and His Excellency very sincerely for the letter No.57 and I am so happy to learn both Your Honorable and His Excellency have returned to Seoul safely after visiting the typhoon damaged area. It has been really very unfortunate that typhoon trouble had involved in Korea and we still hope the damage was not too great. The members of our Legation here too, although very small amount, we sent a small sum to the Minister of Health and Social Affairs the other day for little help to the relief.

Thank You Madam, for Your very kind wish for our settling down here and at least by this time we are now almost settled. First two weeks, after our arrival here, the weather condition seemed very warm and humid but now it seems getting cooler each day and people say it will be much cooler up to the January next.

During the week on Monday I received the courtesy call return by the Argentin Minister and in the evening Mrs. Kim and I were invited by the Thai Ambassador and his wife to their dinner which we very much enjoyed. But the dinner hour here is some what different from the usual dinner hour of Australia. In Australia we always had dinner at 7 P.M. or 7:30 P.M. But the dinner hour here is 8 P.M. I suppose the local climatic condition made that way because the late evening is slightly cooler. On Tuesday I was invited by the Chief of the Diplomatic Corp. here to the monthly luncheon where I was warmly welcomed by all. In the afternoon I received courtesy call of Thai Ambassador. On Thursday I made a courtesy call to the Secretary of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff. I expressed our people's deep gratitude to the Defence Secretary for Philippines' great help to Korea during the Communist war. The Secretary very sincerely responded that he had visited Korea during the war twice and he has very great admiration and respect for our great President and the Korean people. He further expressed the people of the Philippines will always willing to help Korea whenever it will be necessary and we shall always be with Korea for the freedom and Independence. In the evening we were invited by the Apostolic Nuncio, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. to a dinner. There we so enjoyed to be associated with the Foreign Affairs Secretary and other important people.

On Friday the Korean freight ship "MOKPO HO" arrived in Manila from a port of Malaya with the load of iron ore ship to Japan. They got in here because of typhoon trouble near the Okinawa isles. It will sail again by Sunday if the typhoon changes the course.

This morning two Koreans one Fishery Bureau officer and one Fishery organization director arrived here from Hong Kong to have four days Fishery research in the Philippines. They all came to the Legation and visited me. There is one American assistant with them too.

During my short visit to Seoul in July last, just for the interest, I studied carefully the utilization of the Capital building which is not using at the moment. When we all think of the Japanese ruleing days of that building,

24P

No. 2

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

we really don't feel like to even look at that building. But we know, since that building was constructed with Korean taxpayers' money, we do not feel like to see that property is left idle. And for our government and people it has been some great loss. This building is large enough to accommodate at least seven large government departments. The amount of rent which those seven Departments pay for occupying the seven large buildings now will amount, no less than about \$700 per day figuring at least \$5 per large room per day with average 20 rooms in each building occupied by each Department. Although some of those buildings occupied by the government departments are not the private buildings, more or less they are owned by government. But just the same those buildings are the valueable properties which can always bring a good rental. So when we estimate the rentals of those seven buildings occupied by these seven government Departments, the monthly rental figures amount to some \$21,000 or about \$250,000 yearly and for last seven years from 1950 to up until now the lost, already must had amounted to \$1,750,000. to our government for not using that building. My little proposal therefore is to re-modeling the top of that building to a complete Korean architecture, which the rough sketch of mine is enclosed herewith this letter for Your Honourable's information. If this be done, I am sure, it will save considerable amount of our government budget in each year.

With sincere kind regards and high esteem,

Your Honourable's loyal servant,

