

January 21, 1957
Report No. 107 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the pledge of support to the President Magsaysay by majority of the Liberal Party.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

January 21, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

The fraternization between President Magsaysay and the Liberal Party (minority), which culminated in the pledge of support to the President by the majority of Liberal Party Congressmen and National Committee, was calculated to insure control of the House of Representatives by the President because of uncertain loyalty of Nacionalistas in the forthcoming Congress. The loyalty pledge signed by 30 L.P. Members of the 43-man National Committee and 19 of 23 Liberal Party Congressmen was presented on a silver platter to the President. As it stands now, the Liberal Party ceases to function as loyal opposition to the majority party in power. The Liberal Party faces a split within the party.

The Liberal Party Congressmen expect the Chief Executive's blessings in their congressional district campaign for their re-election in return for their pledge to support Mr. Magsaysay's bid for re-election. The Liberal Party feels that as long as Mr. Magsaysay pursues a pro-American policy that will benefit the Philippines, they have every reason to support the former LP man.

President Magsaysay was wary that Senator Claro M. Recto, his arch critic who was "guest candidate" of the Liberal Party in the last senatorial elections might win the support of the Liberals in his bid to wrest the presidency this year. The winning of the Liberal party's support, however, would chill the enthusiasm of Recto's second trial to become "guest candidate" of the Liberal Party at the presidential election.

The Nacionalistas cast suspicion on the support pledge given by the Congressmen and National Committeemen of the Liberal Party, and Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez said that the Liberals' pledge might be a boot trap.

The Nacionalista party leaders, foreseeing the repercussions of the Liberal party quietly urge the friends of Senator Recto to form a new party for the sake of maintaining a two-party system. Otherwise, the two-party system may become superfluous when one party dominates the elections. It is really a pity that so many "loyal" Liberal party politicians turned their backs and openly pledged their support to the incumbent president with the hope of getting on the Magsaysay bandwagon.

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When Congress convenes from January 28 for a 100-working day session, political maneuvering and intrigues will play a dominant role in the political campaigns that will be in full swing following the close of the Congress in early May.

Your obedient servant,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to Minister Chung Whan Cho.