

December 9, 1957

Letter, Korean Mission in Japan to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Report about the conflict between the writer and Ambassador Kim

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December 9, 1957

On the evening of the 7th, this office received cable instructions addressed to me and to the ambassador. I am sure the contents are known to Madam.

*From the daily demand
the fact.*

When I came to the office on the 3th (Sunday), the ambassador seemed upset saying that the amended Miyake proposal which he submitted to the Japs got the approval of the Foreign Minister and which His Excellency instructed to push through. This, he said he learned a

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week ago when the Foreign Minister called him up. The cable which came last evening however instructed that we get a separate memo from Kishi or Fujiyama to the effect that the U.S. Statement does not affect or substantially impair Korean claims. He said he was upset because instructions from the Foreign Ministry vary each week.

no phone instructions should be given in the future.

Another thing was that the cable indicated the two of us do not get along and that cooperation did not exist between us. He hinted that I must have made such a report. Ambassador Kim also stated that Secretary Park and Vice Minister called him up some time ago saying that the contents of the reports from the ambassador and the minister were very different and inquired as to the reason. Kim then wanted to know what kind of reports I make to the President.

*no. most
I didn't say it.*

When he had finished, I told the ambassador that he was in the wrong when he presented the amended Miyake proposal without getting prior approval from the Foreign Ministry; that when he makes ^a proposals to the Japs he should first state that what he was suggesting was his own idea and that it was subject to approval by the government.

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I told him that I do not blame the Foreign Minister for sending the cable. I have been in the Foreign Ministry for many years and know the workings of the Ministry

With regard to the call from the vice foreign minister and Mr. Park that there are discrepancies in our reports, I said to the ambassador that no two people look at things with the same eye and therefore the reports must be different. I report what I hear and see and what I think and since he must also do the same, it was only logical that some difference existed in the contents of our reports as we see differently on certain matters. I said that I would have to ask the two men what was so different. In the meanwhile, he should not be so agitated and upset.

As to the issue that the two of us do not cooperate, no such report was sent by me either to the President or to the Foreign Minister. However, I had my suspicions of his recent attitude toward me and I had wanted to ask him. I told the ambassador that with our problems come to this very difficult and dangerous stage, if we make one mistake we would be committing a big crime against our people.

I have been in Japan for seven years and during all that time have tried to do things well. Even with regard to the U.S. Statement, when Yong Shik Kim was here, I did not know of his agreement with the Japs until only recently and which I found was very disastrous to us. We must always try to be in an advantageous position over the Japs so as not to be forced to go along with what the Japs want.

I said to the ambassador that when Kim Y_ong Shik tried to make things

*He shouldn't say
this. Since I did it
under order.*

easier for himself by agreeing to accept the U.S. Statement and I was fighting it, Secretary Park was most cooperative and ^{that} we owe him a good deal.

Amb. Kim insisted that he could not ask Kishi or anybody for a secret memorandum. He was very angry. However, when I came to the office on the 9th, he stated there was nothing to do but try to follow instructions. Since the cable stated that I was in the process of conducting such negotiations, he asked me if I could not do so. I told him that I had only started and that we should see to it that we succeed.

On the 7th (Saturday), the manager of the Bank of Korea in Tokyo came to me and told me that the ambassador had a big misunderstanding of me and that I should do something to dispel and correct that misunderstanding. The bank manager and the ambassador are both from the same province and are very close, being also somewhat related by marriage.

*It's opposite to
ex-subordinate of his
attaching in this matter.
The Dong-A Il Bo of
Mr. Kang Hun-chin,
ex-chief secretary & present
auditor of the Bank
are doing the job.*

I asked Manager Kim to tell me what I had done and if it had anything to do with our work. He replied that it had nothing to do with our official work. He said the ambassador feels hurt because (1) when the head office of the Bank began investigating the Tokyo branch for illegal handling of loans and the newspapers in Korea were making so much hoise about it, Minister Yiu did not do anything but together with the finance minister had the same suspicion of him. (The newspapers also brought up the responsibility of Kim Yu Taik as he was the governor of the Bank of Korea at that time.)

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(2) When Amb. Kim was trying to get something done about our problems with the Japs through contact with Kano, Minister Yiu reported to KMD that Kano is a communist sympathizer who wants close relations with communist countries. (3) Lee Chuk Choo, one of the secretaries here do not obey the ambassador's orders and should be recalled. Although Minister Yiu is well aware of what was going on, he does not do anything about it.

It all sounded very childish to me. I had not been aware all these going on. I did not know Kim Yu Taik well but because of the very person who recommended him, I cooperated with him to the fullest extent something I had not done before. However, his recent behavior cannot but be termed stupid.

I told Manager Kim that since he was close to both of us, he should tell the ambassador that I knew nothing of what he was accusing me about.

When I came to the office the next morning, I went to the ambassador and told him that I knew nothing about the newspaper articles concerning irregularities in loans by the Bank of Korea and that the Tokyo branch had been investigated. Also that I am not interested in bank affairs for I have my own difficult task to carry out here with the Japs.

As to my relations with the Finance Minister, I came to know him at my daughter's wedding when her-father-in-law being also connected with banking, inserted his name in the invitation card. Therefore, what he was accusing me of was entirely without foundation. As KMD is well aware, I do not know the finance minister well. The province of our work is entirely different.

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When I said this, the ambassador admitted that his relations with the finance minister were not what could be termed good and he felt hurt that I kept quiet when the papers were attacking him for the so-called loan irregularities. I told the ambassador that I knew of the incident only through the papers and was in no position to know that he was connected with it. As to the finance minister although he may not get along well with him, I found him to be honest and hard working and that the two men whom I respect the most in our cabinet were the ministers of commerce and finance for their earnestness and loyalty. I added that if he antagonizes them he would be the one to lose because all knowing people think well of them and that he should not accuse me of anything unless he had proofs.

As to his frequent contacts with Kano, I told him that his efforts would get nowhere and also that he was lowering his prestige by going to the Jap in his position as ambassador. He should meet the prime minister and the foreign minister and there was no need for him to run to every Jap/^{he}knew. Also I had no idea Kano was a communist or a communist sympathizer and at no time had I reported it to KID.

As to point three, ambassador Kim as the head of the Mission should see that he is obeyed and not blame me. If the ambassador has proofs that Lee Chuk Choo should be recalled, he should present them.

In conclusion I stated that this was all very childish and he should forget the whole thing. I reminded him that I had cooperated with him to such an extent as to introduce him to all the high-ranking Japs he should know and he should have no complaints. I told him that if he acts

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in accordance with the policies of our government I would still cooperate with him and that I do not fight anyone unless he does something to hurt KMD or my own person.