

September 10, 1957

**Letter No. 50 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs Syngman Rhee on his meeting with Tanaka and Ambassador Kim regarding Korea's refusal to accept Tanaka's proposals for the reparations issue.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, September 10, 1957

No. 50

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

SUBJECT : Korea-Japan Problems

Last evening I met chief cabinet secretary Tanaka together with Ambassador Kim. Maruyama, commentator of the Kyodo press, a friend both of Kishi and Tanaka was present. Yatsugi, however, was absent.

According to Tanaka, he met Vice Foreign Minister Ohno and Itagaki and heard of the latter's meeting with me and my refusal to accept his proposals. Tanaka then wanted to know if Itagaki's suggestion could not be accepted by us. I reiterated to Tanaka that our amendment proposal on the property claims must be inserted at least in the agreed minutes and if so I would recommend our government to accept it.

Stating that it was quite hopeless for the administrative level to settle it, Tanaka suggested that the only way was to do so politically. He then asked whether the ambassador and I could guarantee that there would be no further conditions or amendments from the Korean government if the Japanese side accepts the amendment proposal. He added that if the Korean side repeats the same attitude it took last June 13 just when actual signing was about to take place, it would cause a terrible blow to Kishi. It will not be so much the Socialists but the different factions in the government party that will attack Kishi, he said.

Tanaka: "Kishi is anxious to settle the problems. You must accept his sincerity as genuine. If, fortunately, the Japanese side accepts your amendment proposals, you must not repeat your July 13 action."

"Rumors have it that the Korean property claims would amount to some five or eight billion. How did such a figure emerge?"

Yiu: "We are quite aware of Mr. Kishi's attitude and we know that he is different from his predecessors. However, I have my doubts of the officials in the administrative level in the Foreign and Finance Ministry, although I know Itagaki and you share Kishi's view in that you want to accept our terms."

"As to the amount of our property claims, as I have always said, the figures will present themselves during the discussion at the overall talks."

Tanaka: "I believe this matter has to be settled politically as we did with our reparations problems. You must know that our attitude is not unreasonable. You will realize that when you read article 4a of the Peace Treaty."



Yiu: "Will you be able to give us a definite reply next week?"

Tanaka: "I am going to Yamaguchi again and will return next week. I shall talk to Kishi and see that something is done. But it will take time."

Although I am not very confident that the Japs would accept our proposal that the amendments be inserted at least in the Agreed Minutes, there is a probability that they might.