

July 18, 1957

**Letter No. 29 by Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on the news articles that stated Kishi and Fujiyama will not accept the Korean proposal.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, July 18, 1957

No. 29TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

The newspaper articles which ensued after our meeting with Kishi and Fujiyama were that the two men had rejected the new Korean proposal and that Japan will change a single word of the original draft memos. The papers also advised that Japan must not accept the Korean proposal, for to do so would be un-Japanese. Some papers, however, reported the facts.

I contacted Fujita and told him to find out the source from which such articles emanated. According to Fujita, Matsumoto Shunichi (former chief Jap delegate to the K-J conference and ambassador to London who initiated the Soviet-Japan talks) and his group together with the opposition in the administrative level in the Foreign Ministry called in the press and gave them the story. This was done out of their dissatisfaction and it was a kind of warning to Kishi and the others that there should be no further concessions. The articles were more or less directed against Kishi, Fujita said.

Soon after his meeting with us, Fujiyama, at his press conference, stated that in order to settle the problems, he had agreed to resuming the preliminary talks with the Korean side. Also, that Japan will follow anti-communist policies in cooperation with the free world nations. This statement, however, was distorted by the press.

From the beginning, the Matsumoto group had been against Japan making concessions to Korea, Fujita said.

When Tanaka, the deputy chief cabinet secretary called me on the 17th which was our Constitution Day and therefore a holiday, saying that he would like to see me, I told him I would not be able to do so and if he could talk over the phone. Tanaka mentioned the news articles and expressed his regrets, adding that the Foreign Office was not the source of the stories. I told Tanaka that unless the Foreign Ministry saw to it that the articles were withdrawn I would not take him at his word.

At 11:30 that morning, Yatsugi telephoned to apologize for the article and also to ask for a meeting with me. I told Yatsugi in very strong terms that although he and some of the others were trying to come to friendly terms with Korea, I was pessimistic over the solution of our problems as evidenced by the news reports. Since the administrative level in the Foreign Ministry who will tackle our problems are the very ones who are against their settlement, the formal conference, even if were to be resumed would not settle anything. For, behind the administrative level are the politicians who harbor the same ideas. What the Korean

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side had hoped, I said to Yatsugi, was to see Kishi and Ishii go over the opposition and come to terms with us. We now doubt whether they could do so. The only way to settle the problems was to come to agreement with the high level, but as they are afraid of the opposition, I can only be pessimistic, I said.

Yatsugi replied that it was not necessarily so, however, settlement would not be without difficulties. He stated that the contrary articles were directed not so much against Korea as against Kishi and to disrupt his plans. One lamentable fact, he said was the widening gap between Kishi and Ishii over the cabinet formation.

Turning the subject, Yatsugi referred to the seizure of a Japanese vessel near Cheju Island by the Korean side at a time when the two sides were trying to settle their differences. I reminded Yatsugi that the Japanese vessels had been carrying on a flagrant violation of our Peace Line by taking advantage of our good will and that our Marine Board cannot possibly leave the situation unchecked.

Later in the evening, I issued a statement which was distributed to all the news agencies.