

November 10, 1955

**Political Report, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim
Yong-shik] to the Office of the President**

Citation:

"Political Report, Minister Yong Shik Kim [Kim Yong-shik] to the Office of the President", November 10, 1955, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-308-072, The Korean Diplomatic Mission in Japan, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.

<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/123683>

Summary:

Report on followings: Japan's inclusion on Scientific Committee of the UN, Japanese politics and Balance of Payments, Burma-Japan Reparations

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, November 10, 1955

TO : Office of the President
FROM : Minister Yong Shik Kim
SUBJECT : Political Report

The items in this week's Political Report are as follows:

- I. JAPAN INCLUDED IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE UN.
- II. JAPANESE POLITICS.
- III. JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION.
- IV. THE BURMA-JAPAN REPARATIONS.

*cc: General
Nov 17*

I. JAPAN INCLUDED IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE UN.

On November 8, the United Nations Main Political Committee adopted unanimously a resolution setting up a scientific committee to study effects of atomic radiation. And Japan was included in the Committee together with other fourteen nations. The Special Scientific Committee now includes Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Soviet Union.

The resolution adopted at the Main Political Committee will go to the General Assembly for final endorsement. The Committee will seek to find out effects of atomic radiation and to submit such findings to the UN Assembly by 1958 or earlier.

Toshikazu Kase, Japanese Permanent Observer, is reported to have expressed his government's thanks to the Political Committee after it had adopted a resolution setting up the UN scientific body where Japan was also included. Kase pledged Japan's "whole-hearted cooperation" in the UN efforts to study effects of atomic radiation.

It is believed by Japanese Government quarters that Masao Tsuzuki, President of the Japan Red Cross Hospital, will most likely be nominated as Japan's representative at the newly established Atomic Radiation Study Committee of the UN.

Now, it is in an extraordinary step that Japan, a non-member of the United Nations, has been chosen as a member of the Atomic Radiation Study Committee. Although Japan is a member of UNESCO, FAO, WHO and other specialized organs of the United Nations, this is the first time that Japan is participating in an immediate main committee of the United Nations itself.

II. JAPANESE POLITICS.

The weary business of the conservative merger is at long last in its final stage. Leaders of both Democratic and Liberal Parties are busily engaging in formal or informal talks to iron out the difficulties relevant

to whom

-2-

to whom to choose as the leader of the new party.

The conservatives seem to have realized the fact that there is no time to be wasted in ugly internal feuds and that they must launch their new unified party on November 15. While the two parties are arguing whether the new leader should be Hatoyama or Ogata and whether he should be elected or nominated, the opening day of the next Diet session is fast approaching. Under the circumstances, Japanese newspapers publicly began to criticize the attitude of the conservative party leaders, saying that the conservatives are still indulging in "ugly feuds" and "if they are incapable of settling their differences properly, they should give the whole thing up". Thus, because of the bitter criticism launched by newspapers and political observers, leaders of the two parties seem to make up their mind to succeed in unifying their parties by November 15 by all means.

It is a matter of course that the Democrats insisted that Hatoyama be nominated as the President of the new unified party and Ogata, president of the Liberal party, be nominated as its vice-president.

On the other hand the Liberals, particularly those owing allegiance to former Premier Yoshida, strongly insisted that the President be chosen at an "open election" to be held by both party members of the two Houses of the Diet. And the four members of the permanent sponsors of the New Party Preparatory Council failed to come up with any solution to the bitter dispute over who is to be the leader of the new party and how he is to be chosen. But a few days ago, the Democrats finally made a new proposal that a provisional two-man or four-man deputy committee be created to operate the function of the new party pending the solution of the presidency dispute and that an "open election" of the president of the new party be held sometime in early spring of next year when the local bodies of the new party are organized throughout the country. Such new proposal made by the Democrats will mean that the new party will be organized on November 15, as scheduled, without having the president and the function of the new party president will be vested in to the proposed provisional deputy committee until such time as the new president is chosen in due course of time.

Now, it is reported that Ogata and other leading members of the Liberal party have decided to agree to the new bid from the Democrats, fixing some conditions to their consent. And one of the conditions is reportedly to have the Democrats commit themselves "definitely" in regard to the presidential election to be held "at the earliest possible date."

Ogata, after conferring repeatedly with leading executives of his party on November 8 and 9, accepted the Democrats' new bid.

It is also said that the provisional deputy committee of the new party will be composed of Hatoyama, Ogata, Miki, present chairman of the Democratic General Affairs Board, and Matsuno, a leading member of the Liberal Party. Mr. Hatoyama will be held responsible for administration, while Ogata will be held responsible for running the new party. Now, the question lies in how those Liberals supposed to be pro-Yoshida elements will react in connection with the new bid from the Democrats since they have stood firm on the policy that the President of the united conservative party be picked through an "open election" by Diet members concerned.

But since Ogata, favoring a Democratic-Liberal merger even at the expense of some concessions, accepted the new bid from the Democrats, the new unified party will come into being on November 15. Now it has come to be clear that the two conservative parties will succeed in joining their political forces in one way or another. In case of inauguration of the new unified conservative party, there will exist two big political parties in Japan--one is the Japan Socialist Party and the other, the unified conservative party.

Political

163

-3-

Political observers here believe that the fact that the two conservative parties will finally succeed in their merger will mean that they have waked to the fact that there is no time to be wasted in arguing the dispute over presidency, having been faced with a unified Socialist Party and haunted by the fear that the socialists might come to power if the conservative merger were to end in failure.

In the meanwhile, the policy committee of the New Party Preparatory Council recently finished to map out a draft foreign policy. And the gist of the new foreign policy is as follows:

1. Improvement of the deadlocked ROK-Japan relations.
2. Setting up of the economic diplomacy, especially to cement economic ties with Southeast Asian countries.
3. To help settle the reparations issue speedily and reasonably.
4. To call for disarmament and prohibition of nuclear weapons.
5. To improve emigration policy.

6. Regarding the Russo-Japanese talks, it is stated in the draft that Japanese detainees inside the Iron Curtain should be released immediately and the original Japanese territories should be returned to Japan and that the ownership of other former Japanese territories (South Sakhalin and Southern Kuriles) should be decided by an international conference.

In connection with the conservative merger, Foreign Minister Shigemitsu, on November 8, said that the political background must be consolidated if pending diplomatic issues were to be settled and that the conservative parties' merger must be quickly achieved.

He added that he thought the Democrats and Liberals, instead of putting forward their own formulas for settling diplomatic issues, should try to reconcile each other's views on foreign policy. Regarding the Russo-Japanese talks, Shigemitsu suggested that it would be best for the Government to have Matsumoto, Chief Japanese negotiator, return to London and resume negotiations with Russians when the present political situation is stabilized and the new unified party's policy toward Russia is decided.

Anyhow, it seems to be quite clear that the Japanese Government will start its diplomatic offensives when the conservative merger is achieved.

III. JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION.

The Bank of Japan announced that exports for the months of October totaled \$179 million. While exports of such principal items as finished cotton goods, steel and ships decreased from September, woolen goods, chemicals and rolling stock increased.

Most of the imports consisted of scrap iron, iron ore and other raw materials for steel. On the other hand, imports of staple food such as rice and wheat declined drastically, due to the bumper rice crop of this year. As a result, the total import figure for October declined (by \$7-million) to \$142-million.

The Bank of Japan said that Japan's favorable foreign exchange balance last month amounted to \$69 million. The favorable balance was maintained as a result of the continued high level in exports and receipts from US Army sources and of a smaller amount of imports made during the month.

The Finance Ministry of Japan predicted that Japan's foreign exchange holdings at the end of this year will total more than \$1.5-billion in view of the continued favorable situation of exports.

164

IV.

-4-

IV. THE BURMA-JAPAN REPARATIONS.

In accordance with the recently signed working details of the reparations agreement, Burma is going to set up a reparation mission in Tokyo, while Japan has already established the Government-private Joint Council on reparations. Japan's Joint Council sat in its initial session at the Jap Foreign Ministry on November 7 and discussed measures to implement the working plan for the reparations agreement.

In the meantime, the Jap Government will send a similar mission to Rangoon for implementation of the Burma-Japan Reparations program. The members of the Jap mission to Rangoon will negotiate with the Burmese government on how to carry out the working details of the reparations agreement.



Copy to: Foreign Minister