

November 17, 1955

**Letter, Kim Yong-shik of the Korean Mission in Japan
to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Inauguration of Liberal Democratic Party of Japan and other Japanese political news

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, November 17, 1955

Excellency:

I beg to acknowledge with appreciation the receipt of Your Excellency's letters last week.

The Liberal-Democratic Party of Japan was finally inaugurated on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Thus, a long-pending conservative merger has come to a reality. The new party will occupy 300 seats in the Lower House and another 118 in the Upper House, followed by the Socialist Party's 154 and 68 in the Lower and Upper Houses, respectively.

As reported in the past, there has been a number of obstacles before the conservative merger has been realized. Both the Liberals and Democrats were uncompromising and it was only after the Socialist merger materialized last month that the two parties decided to merge. The new party will be headed by the four-man executive committee, as reported previously, consisting of Prime Minister Hatoyama, ex-Liberal President Taketora Ogata, Bukichi Miki (top aide to Hatoyama) and ex-Liberal Bamboku Ohno. This executive committee will function until next spring at which time a new election will decide on the party presidency.

Following the inauguration of the new party the present Cabinet will resign en bloc next Monday, Nov. 21. At the reconvened session beginning next Tuesday, Nov. 22, Hatoyama will be elected as the new Premier.

The Socialist Party bitterly criticized the conservative merger, saying that it was contrary to the rules of democratic government to shift power from one to another by splitting or merging parties.

The consensus of the local press' opinions is that they welcome the birth of the new conservative party as the

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His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee

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sign of the beginning of the two-party opposition, however, warned the leaders of the new party, saying that the conservative merger is the product of their convenience alone and, therefore, friction and conflict of diverse interests might ensue.

As the reaction from abroad to the Japanese conservative merger, both the US and British sources regard the merger favorably, predicting that it would pave the way for the continued Tokyo-Washington collaboration, according to the press report.

As I mentioned in the fore-going paragraph, Mr. Hatoyama will be re-elected as the new premier and will form his third cabinet. Foreign Minister Shigemitsu is expected to retain his post. Shigemitsu met Hatoyama today and insisted to the latter upon the necessity for the continued collaboration with the United States. It appears, therefore, at least outwardly that Japanese politics were stabilized and the third Hatoyama Cabinet will take more "positive" attitude in its enforcement of foreign policy.

Separately, Japanese Ambassador at the UN, Kase, cabled the Foreign Office, informing that there was strong possibility that Japan be admitted into the UN during the current General Assembly session. According to the press report the Soviet Union will not raise any objection to Japan's entry into the UN. Thus, Japan's position in the international world will be strengthened in the event her membership is approved. Since the Soviets will not object Japan's entry, it is expected to give effects on the Russo-Japanese talks in London, favorable to Japan.

Seiichi Katsumata, Chairman of the Japan Socialists' Diet Policy Committee, now on a tour of the United States, met Mr. William J. Sebald, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, on Nov. 14, according to the press report. Katsumata is reported to have asked question concerning the US defense policy toward Japan which was discussed between Foreign Minister Shigemitsu and the US side some months ago. Sebald replied to him that the US policy in this regard was to withdraw her Army, Navy and Air Force from Japan in the future on condition that Japan adequately rearmed herself to take part in the collective security system in the Western Pacific.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,

Wm. J. Sebald

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