

December 15, 1955

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

Citation:

"Letter, Kim Yong-shik of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", December 15, 1955, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-308-012, 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/123706>

Summary:

Report on Japanese UN application being turned down, visit to the US embassy by Japanese Diet members, press reports, Kim's prediction on the US stance on Korea-Japan issue, his reluctance in using Ambassador Allison's name officially

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, December 15, 1955

Excellency:

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

I. Japan's application for UN membership was finally turned down as the result of the Nationalist Government's veto of the Outer Mongolian application for UN seat. I am particularly happy, because the Chinese delegate at the Security Council mentioned of the participation in the recent war in Korea of the Outer Mongolian troops.

Now the relationship between Nationalist China and Japan will become delicate. Some criticize the US of failing to exert sufficient pressure to Nationalist China. As I read the press report, the UN Security Council Chinese delegate, Dr. Tsiang, beautifully handled the case.

The Japanese Government and people are quite disappointed inasmuch as their hopes for becoming a UN member were so great. Foreign Minister Shigemitsu said that he had been greatly disappointed. As I reported last week, I was certain that Nationalist China would use veto since Ambassador Tong here hinted at it before.

In this connection the Socialist Party of Japan is reportedly preparing for a non-confidence vote against Mr. Shigemitsu to be submitted to the Diet tomorrow, December 16. The Japanese Government is also considering to replace its ambassador in Washington and Premier Hatoyama is openly criticizing his Foreign Ministry for failing to render correct judgment in relation to the membership issue

II./

His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee

2.

II. A group of Japanese Diet members visited the American Embassy here a few days ago and requested the US Government select Tokyo as the site of the atomic center. Ambassador Allison promised them that he would convey their desire to his Government, however, personally felt that India or Japan was not a suitable place.

The Japanese Diet members are increasing their pressure to the Government in connection with the settlement of the issues pending with Korea. This does not mean that they are going to settle the problems according to our terms, however.

They passed a resolution this week calling upon the Japanese Government to take all possible means to normalize the relations with Korea. The said resolution also stated that the Japanese Government should strive to work out the step on the basis of the principle of the freedom of the high seas to secure the safety of the Japanese fishermen operating in the Peace Line zone. In this regard Foreign Minister Shigemitsu is reported to have told the Dietmen that his Government would try to settle the Korea-Japan problems through negotiations.

Since last month there has been an increasing trend on the part of the Japanese Dietmen, especially Socialists, in relation to the settlement of problems pending between Korea and Japan. Seven members of the Japan Socialist Party visited this office Monday (Dec. 12) and presented a petition to our Government regarding the fishery issue. I had Consul-General Choi, Kyu Hah meet them and stress the point that the Japanese Government had always been insincere regarding the settlement of the pending issues with Korea.

III. Your Excellency's interview given to an AP reporter, Mr. Gene Kramer, was widely reported by the local dailies. The ensuing State Department comment thereon was also carried by the local press.

IV. The press report last Tuesday (Dec. 13) stated that at a meeting between US Embassy Counselor Frank Waring and Japanese Foreign Office's Asian Affairs Director Nakagawa they talked about the Korea-Japan relations. The report also stated that Mr. Waring urged Japan to withdraw the property claims to Korea.

For the purpose of confirming the above press report I sent Consul-General Choi to see Mr. Waring yesterday. According to Mr. Choi Mr. Waring denied the report that he and Nakagawa talked about the Korea-Japan issues, however, he was definitely interested in the problem.

When/

25

3.

When I met Mr. Nakagawa at the diplomatic reception honoring the visiting Prime Minister of Cambodia, he told me that Japan expected that the US would step in as a mediator in settling the Korea-Japan problems.

V. It was learnt this week that late in November the US Ambassador had sent a letter to the Japanese Foreign Minister, requesting clarification regarding "Japan's basic position toward Red China and north Korea." Mr. Allison's letter written in an emphatic and protesting tone, referred to political significance attached to frequent visits to Red China and north Korea by Japanese unofficial circles, according to the report.

One of the Tokyo dailies report that the Japanese Government's reply to Amb. Allison contained the following points:

1. for the time being, Japan will not recognize Red China or north Korea, and the Governmental policy not to start political negotiations with either regime remain unchanged,
2. as for trade with Red China, Japan wishes to abide by the trade restrictions and has no intention to exchange trade missions,
3. the visits to Red China and north Korea by Japanese unofficial circles are likely to represent too much of their political positions, but their activities are by no means binding upon the Japanese Government,
4. as Japan has special relations, particularly with Red China, geographically and historically, it will produce a bad result, if the unofficial comings and goings are prohibited, and
5. for the trade with Red China, the restrictions be eased in view of the economic situation of Japan at present.

- VI. If my evaluation of the current situation is accurate,
- a. the US would not support Japanese property claims. At the same time she will not support our Peace Line, either. It is anticipated that the US will not agree to the idea of opening the entire fishing ground to Japanese fishing vessels, however.
 - b. Despite all reports that the US is still reluctant to

give/

26

4.

give mediation in the settlement of the Korea-Japan problems. Japanese Foreign Ministry sources are said to be in favor of such mediation, while Premier Hatoyama does not favor it.

- c. When I happened to meet Japanese Deputy Cabinet Secretary Matsumoto, he told me that Hatoyama was planning to send a season's greeting to Your Excellency.

It is apparent that the Japanese Government believes that the advocacy of peaceful settlement of the issues pending with Korea is bringing about favorable reactions in the US. On the other hand it cannot be denied that they are now on the defensive, because the only possible way of settling the issues is by direct talks with our side. However, they still hold a wishful thinking such as "as time goes by, it will benefit Japan."

- d. It is obvious that Japan wants to settle the pending problems on a case by case basis, giving top priority to such problems as the detainees issue, normalization of trade. However, the Japanese are very cautious in regard to the overture to our side. Under such circumstances we should stand firm all the more.

VII. I received an urgent, confidential cablegram from the Office of the President, asking me if I felt it advisable to use Allison's name in public statements about his commitment made during his visit to Seoul last June.

I telephoned the Office of the President, advising against the use of his name for fear that it might embarrass Amb. Allison. In case we publicly use his name in connection with his commitment made with our side, it will make it difficult for us to ask him for his assistance in pressing the Japanese side to meet our requirements. Putting aside the question whether Allison did his best to comply with his commitment, we still can ask him for his help in future.

I do not know what Ambassador Yang and Assistant Secretary of State Robertson talked about specifically at their recent meeting in Washington. Of course, as far as I am concerned, I haven't ever requested the US side here for mediation, excepting keeping it informed of development.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,

Young Sub (Kun) 29