

July 2, 1957

**Letter No. 19 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Tai Ha Yiu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Kitazawa, Funada, and Yatsugi, regarding the Korea-Japan problems.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, July 2, 1957

No. 19

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At the request of Kitazawa, I met him at the Imperial Hotel this afternoon. With him were Funada and Yatsugi.

According to Kitazawa, Kishi was thoroughly briefed on K-J problems by Ishii and Ohno. Kishi himself is not in a position to make any more concession than what he made before his departure for Washington, and even if the two men were inclined to accept the Korean proposal, they will not be able to push through the opposition in the Foreign Ministry or through the opposition in their own party, he said. He added that Kishi will be bitterly attacked not so much for his concessions but because diplomacy is a matter of give and take and not merely a give and give.

Kitazawa stated that the present cabinet would resign with the exception of Ishii. Kishi will not maintain hold of the foreign portfolio and neither will Ishii. Kitazawa expressed his hope that we would accept the original terms as agreed to by Kishi in view of the above circumstance. Kishi will leave for Hakone for a week's rest, he said.

The three men stated that the refusal by Korea to accept the original drafts had placed them in very difficult and embarrassing positions. They insisted that the present draft memos were not to be compared with the Kim-Nakagawa agreement both in concession and sincerity. They advised that if the Korean side is dissatisfied with the draft agreements, it could take them up at the overall talk, at which time they stated they would do everything to help us. More than anything else they asked that we save the faces of Kishi and Ishii.

I told Kitazawa that Japan made no concessions, that the concession was made on our part when we agreed to place the Peace Line as an item in the agenda whereas it had been our policy that Japanese recognize it before the resumption of the talks.

The three men expressed their concern saying that if the Korean side does not accept the original drafts, there was nothing to be done.

At this time I brought up the subject of the smuggled scrap iron which the Japanese government refused to return to Korea. They stated that they had seen the newspaper ^{stories} and could not understand why their government was irritating the Koreans with such minor matters.

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They added, however, that if the lower echelon refuses to give in, there is nothing the high level can do.

Fumada then stated that Nakagawa tried to undertake something that was too big for him and failed which cost him a promotion, and for a bureau chief to be assigned abroad as minister-counselor is a demotion, he said. I told him that Nakagawa and Miyake were demoted because of their attack on Kishi and Ishii

The new Asian affairs bureau chief is an elderly man. I have not met him but shall do so very soon. What I would like to state here is that although I shall keep on trying, there are no possibilities of the Japs accepting our proposal at the present time.

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