



February 14, 1951

Letter, President Syngman Rhee to General Coulter

Citation:

"Letter, President Syngman Rhee to General Coulter", February 14, 1951, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-011-039, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/118077>

Summary:

President Rhee urges General Coulter to request for US permission to allow South Korean technicians to restore and repair the war tanks that the US was going to scrap into iron. Rhee argues that these tanks are indispensable for the ROK's national defense. He is also willing to pay the US in cash or iron scraps to get these tanks.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



February 14, 1951

My dear General Coulter:

Since I spoke to you about the damaged tanks and trucks that are to be broken up for scrap, I have been waiting for your favorable reply. Meanwhile, I thought it would be advisable for me to make a formal request in writing.

Tanks as war weapons are highly necessary for our national defense. Our technicians assure us that about 80 per cent of all the damaged tanks can be repaired without much cost for use in our national defense. We wish to pay the price for them either in money or in scrap iron as the U.S. Government may prefer. If some such arrangement can be made to save these tanks for our use instead of destroying them completely for scrap iron, we will be highly appreciative.

We sincerely hope the U.S. authorities may deem this offer acceptable.

Kindly let us know at your earliest convenience.

Very cordially yours,

Lieutenant General John B. Coulter
Deputy Commander
Eighth United States Army in Korea