

**August 8, 1957**

**Letter No. 84 from the President (Syngman Rhee) to  
Minister Duk Shin Choi**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

President Rhee warns Choi about possible Japanese influence on U.S. dignitaries, listing past remarks as examples.

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Number 84

To: Minister Duk Shin Choi

From: The President

Thank you for your Weekly Report Number 50 dated August 1 and also for the enclosures received with it.

As I shall be leaving tomorrow for Pusan to survey the flooded areas near the Naktong River my answer to your very good report will be rather brief.

One thing I want to inform you confidentially is that the Foreign Minister will appoint you as my personal representative to the Malayan independence ceremony. No doubt you will be hearing from the Ministry by next pouch but I am letting you know beforehand so that you will be adequately prepared.

I am glad to know the Vietnamese government is very strong in its anti-Japan stand. We have to do our best to make our friends realize they must never support Japan's economic domination of Asia because it will only hurt us all in the end.

It is good to know that former Minister Duong Van Duc brought back a good impression of Korea. I fully realize it will be difficult to send out the economics trained men and therefore I have told our people not to press further on that point.

I was very interested to learn of the founding of the first Vietnamese company which will import petroleum products. As you know, we have tried and are still trying to establish an oil refinery at Ulsan but so far no American company is willing to invest any money on such a project in Korea. The other day we read in the papers that the Standard Oil Company will set up an oil refinery in the Philippines.

Your letter to Senator Knowland is excellent and I am sure he cannot fail to understand the true situation. Undersecretary and Mrs. Herter and Amb. and Mrs. Richards will attend the ceremonies marking Malayan independence and no doubt they will later be invited to Vietnam. Whenever you have a chance, please explain to them about the threat of Japan and how the Japanese will finally succeed in getting the Asian Fund financed by U.S. The Communist danger, as you clearly stated, is an open fact but very few know about Japan and when these people are in Japan they will be fed anti-Korean propaganda.

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You should point out to them that I had gone twice to Japan at the invitation of Generals MacArthur and Clark to talk to then Prime Minister Yoshida and stretched out my hand in a gesture of friendship and to forgive and forget the past but Japan did not make any move to accept it and on the contrary her representative at the third Korea-Japan Conference, K. Kubota, made the following remarks:

- 1) The evacuation of the Japanese from Korea in 1945 was a violation of international law.
- 2) The establishment of an independent Korean state before a Japanese peace treaty was signed was a violation of international law.
- 3) Japan's property claims in Korea are inviolate.
- 4) The Cairo Declaration describing the "enslavement" of the Korean people to Japan was based on wartime hysteria.
- 5) Japan's occupation of Korea was beneficial to the Korean people.

Please do all you can to make the Americans who are there realize what the Japanese are doing.

*Recd: 2 cc of Ryukyus articles  
from Honolulu Advertiser  
& Star Bulletin*