

March 2, 1954

Letter, Syngman Rhee to General James A. Van Fleet

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Summary:

Syngman Rhee expresses concerns about the American Korean Foundation's under-graduate scholarship program.

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2nd March, 1954

Dear General Van Fleet:

I thought you might be interested to see the enclosed itinerary set up by KCOMZ for welcoming the Mercy Ship from the American Korean Foundation.

There is a small matter I think I should bring to your attention. We recently learned from a College President that the AKF is now planning to include under-graduate scholarships in its program. I am quite concerned that if this program is not worked out with the Government, many difficulties may present themselves. Our Government policy does not favor sending out under-graduate students for study abroad but insists they study English, etc., at home and leave for further study overseas at a more mature age.

Our political opponents are spreading the story that the AKF has no clause in its By-Laws which allows of co-ordination between the AKF and the ROK, and that this educational program will be carried out independently. If this is so, I am quite concerned about the difficulties the three American representatives who are coming out here will face, if they carry out their mission in this spirit.

I feel it my duty to tell you this as I know you understand our situation. I certainly do not wish to appear to be 'butting in' on AKF policy, but I would like you to have my personal view on this matter.

With my very good wishes to you and Mrs. Van Fleet.

Yours sincerely,

General James A. Van Fleet,
c/o Korean Embassy,
WASHINGTON, D.C..

49