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July 21, 1955

Letter, Syngman Rhee to General Collier

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Summary:

Syngman Rhee responds to General Collier's letter celebrating Constitution Day and states that Korea's major problem would dissolve if all world powers gave proper recognition to the ROK constitution.

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July 21, 1955

My dear General Collier:

Thank you for your kind letter noting Constitution Day and please extend my appreciation to the officers and men of Eighth Army for their cognizance of the seventh anniversary.

It seems to me that Korea's major problems would dissolve if all world powers gave proper recognition to the occasion and the ROK Constitution. After all, the Republic of Korea Government came into existence through the kind offices of the United Nations, which itself is recognized by its 60 member nations and the many others barred from membership by the machinations of the Communists. As the only United Nations-recognized Government for Korea, we operate under a Constitution drafted, adopted and even modified by action of the vast majority of the population of the entire peninsula. Vacant seats in our National Assembly still are being held for representatives from the north, to be elected in their own districts when United Nations representatives are able to supervise such elections. Whatever plans may be offered in the future for Korea's unification, the Constitution which is the foundation of the United Nations-launched ROK Government, will continue to assure free men a free government, and, as you so forcefully expressed it, the Republic of Korea will endure for all time.

We who feel the responsibilities placed upon us by a trusting people appreciate the strong support ever forthcoming from friends such as yourself.

Sincerely,

SR