

December 1, 1954

Letter, James Cromwell to Syngman Rhee

Citation:

"Letter, James Cromwell to Syngman Rhee", December 1, 1954, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-015-017, Official Correspondences, President Rhee's Correspondences, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/122861>

Summary:

James Cromwell sends a number of items to Syngman Rhee, including a copy of his speech "A New Foreign Policy for the United States" and information on the Private Enterprise Plan.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

cc WF
BCL

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1028 Conn. Ave., N. W.
Washington 6, D.C.

December 1, 1954

His Excellency
The President of Korea
Dr. Syngman Rhee
Seoul, Korea

Dear Mr. President:

This letter is in the nature of a Christmas and New Year greeting, as I have nothing specific to take up with you at the present time. Please, therefore, accept this as sending my affectionate greetings and every good wish for a Merry Christmas and a fortuitous 1955.

Naturally, I was disappointed only to have caught an occasional glimpse of you and Madame Rhee during your all too brief sojourn here in Washington. I was particularly anxious to talk to you before you delivered your speech before the Joint Session of Congress for I had some suggestions to make to you, born of my own experiences in addressing public gatherings in various sections of the United States.

I am enclosing a copy of a speech which met with great acclaim and most excellent publicity, called "A New Foreign Policy For the United States." The synopsis of the contents of this address is presented on the first page so I am sure you will find time to read it. I am sure you will approve of the policy advocated under Point No. 4, a point which was particularly acclaimed by the press.

Cromwell



Dr. Syngman Rhee

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I was most anxious for you to predicate your address before the Joint Session upon the idea of an expanding of the ROK and Nationalist forces to a degree that would seriously strain the economy of Red China. I wanted you to emphasize the fact that the United States is the only nation currently capable of producing both guns and butter in almost unlimited quantities.

I believe that the idea of seeking to defeat Red China by means of economic pressure would have received the enthusiastic endorsement of Congress and would have eventually brought about that which you are seeking. Of course, this is all water over the dam, but I mention it to remind you that of all your trusted advisors, I am the only one who, by delivering addresses and campaigning throughout the country, is in a position to advise you concerning the current point of view of the American people.

The Private Enterprise Plan, although it was finally completed subsequent to the adjournment of Congress last August, is presently languishing for lack of funds. I have spent a great deal of my own time and money seeking to obtain acceptance of the idea and unfortunately I cannot afford to spend any more at present. I have by no means lost hope that the idea might yet be supported financially by American Industry, but I am temporarily blocked in this respect by the absence from this country of the Plan's most prominent advocate, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the United States Steel Corporation. We are likewise contacting several foundations and a few of the foreign governments that might be interested and eligible.



Dr. Syngman Rhee

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I am sending you, for your information, and for your records, the complete portfolio of the Private Enterprise Plan, and I am sure you will be interested in the letter from General Marquat, which came to me wholly unsolicited. The General is convinced that the Private Enterprise Plan is the only plan and procedure by means of which the ROK can be efficiently and promptly rehabilitated from the industrial point of view.

I am currently negotiating with several manufacturing concerns which are desirous of establishing representation in Seoul, and I am hopeful that one of them may provide funds to enable me to visit Korea once again. There are a number of matters I should like to discuss with you which I think might be beneficial to the ROK.

It is a tragic fact that two of Korea's best friends, - Congressman Shafer and Senator Maybank, whose names will be found on two of the PEP pamphlets, are now deceased. You will note that the new Resolution 219, which was introduced by Congressman Shafer just prior to his death, is inclusive in that it does not separate, as was the case formerly, the presence of Government ownership in the ROK with your own strong opposition to it. The original Resolution 219 was attached to the original Private Enterprise Plan For Korea, and when Resolution 219 was read separately, it naturally gave a false impression, i.e., that you, yourself, were not strenuously opposed to socialism and government ownership.



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This is a long Christmas letter, dear Mr. President, and so I will now terminate it with the hope that I shall have the great pleasure of seeing you again some time during the year 1955.

Sincerely, your friend,

James H. R. Cromwell

JHRC:b