

February 1955

Letter, Harold Lady to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Harold Lady writes concerning the purchase with FOA funds of items in the US Army stockpile.

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Memo No. 20

Dear President Rhee:

Subject: Purchases from U.S. Army Stockpiles

Lt. Col. Hoffman, the member of Mr. Tyler Wood's staff in charge of expediting the purchase with FOA funds of items in the U.S. Army stockpile believed to be necessary for the Korean economy, has informed me that the FOA and the U.S. Army are much upset because completion of this transaction has been indefinitely postponed by the Korean Government.

As the result of close contact with this transaction, I am of the opinion that it would be a serious mistake to ignore this opportunity to obtain immediately with \$43,000,000 of FOA funds a large portion of the \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 worth of goods (cost basis) that are being offered.

I am also convinced that Lt. Col. Hoffman is correct in stating that, unless prompt action is taken by the Korean Government the Army stockpiles will be shipped to Japan and Okinawa.

It is suggested that this is a matter of extreme importance to the future of Korea and that it would be appropriate for you to assign some member of your immediate staff to the problem of insuring the success of this transaction.

Harold Wendell Lady