

October 31, 1956
**Report No. 99 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on revision of the PI-US military base agreement, the Asian People's Anti-Communist League scheduled, and the new South Korean legation building.

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Report No. 99

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

October 31, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

SEATO naval and air maneuver "Operations Albaross" was concluded on October 22, after one month of intensive naval exercises commanded by Rear Admiral D.H. Harris, flag officer of the Australian fleet. The defense drills were practiced from Java sea, south of Singapore to Philippine waters.

Senator Claro M. Recto urged the President to consult Congress before taking final action of the revision of the military bases agreement, His warning to President Magsaysay would dampen the spirit of reopening the bases talk which fell into abeyance until the U.S. general election is over. It appears that whatever the US-PI panel may revise, it would be futile unless and until the Philippine Senate is fully satisfied with the terms and conditions of the military bases agreement. Attached herewith is a copy of Senator Recto's speech on "American Bases and National Freedom and Security."

*agreement for
Revision of military
bases agreement & roads
plans given Mr. Pantoja
for Conference Ministers
6/11*

The Asian People's Anti-Communist League is scheduled to hold a caucus in Manila from November 3 to 5 inclusive, and I am told by Dr. Jose M. Hernandez that five delegates from Korea will be coming here. The other delegates are: 3 from Vietnam, 4 from the Philippines, 3 from Macao and 4 from Taipeh. I am further advised that the caucus is being called by the Korea League, and Manila is chosen to meet the convenient accomodation of the delegates. Korea, being the host nation, all the arrangements have to be decided upon the arrival of the Korean delegation. Unaware of the Korean delegation's plan in Manila, I cannot render any service that will facilitate caucus program and entertainment,

The legation premises: As the lease on the present premises will expire sometime in 1957, I have been looking for a suitable place at a reasonable rental within the limit of the budget. Now, I found a three-story house which used to be occupied by the former Argentinian Minister for his residence. The house has been vacant since the recall of the Argentinian Minister, a pro-Peron man, because of a high rent of \$600.00 per month. I negotiated with the owner to lease the premises at a rental of \$420.00 per month, for a two-year term with an option to extend the lease. The house is well-built and contains five bedrooms with two ante-rooms which can be used as our chancery. The house is conveniently located in a respectable residential district which is near to the town, and accessible to the government buildings.

The garden is spacious, and can accommodate several hundreds of persons for special occasions. If we move to that house, there will be no need for us to rent a clubhouse everytime we hold a large reception such as on our national holiday or on occasions requiring a large number of persons.

Since the legation monthly expense was remitted in English currency pound equivalent to an amount in dollars, we suffer the loss

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of one hundred fifty dollars more or less per month when the English currency is converted into dollars at a deflated rate of exchange. While the official exchange rate of pound-to-dollar is \$2.82 to one English pound, the market exchange rate is only \$2.68 to one pound. The Suez crisis having depressed the value of pound exchange rate, the English pound has been depreciated. From January this year, the remittance for the monthly legation allowance sent in English currency pound out down an average of one hundred fifty dollars per month.

It is quite a sum of money, notwithstanding the increase of current expenses and high cost of living. If we move to a new house, we need remittance in dollars instead of English pound currency so that we would be able to meet the payment of increase in rental. I shall be grateful to you if an authorization be given to the Department of Foreign Affairs to remit from December our monthly remittance in dollars.

For the month of October, we received a draft issued by the Bank of Korea in the amount of English pound currency 926.15, equivalent to \$2595.00. When it was converted into dollars at the current rate of exchange, the amount shrunk to only \$2408.00, short of \$187.00, which was seven percent less than the monthly allotment we were to receive to meet the current expenses.

Faithfully yours,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

His Excellency Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to Acting Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho

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