

**October 13, 1956**  
**Talk delivered by Korean Vice Consul and Third  
Secretary Do Soon Chung**

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**Summary:**

The Korean Vice Consul speaks about trade between Korea and Philippines and history of Korea.

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TALK DELIVERED BY KOREAN VICE CONSUL AND THIRD  
SECRETARY DO SOON CHUNG, OVER STATION DZBB  
DURING THE "FOREIGN TRADE AIRCAST" OF THE  
PHILIPPINES' EXPORT AND IMPORT JOURNAL  
ON OCTOBER 13, 1956, - 4:00 P.M.  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the radio audience:

I take this opportunity to thank the Philippines' Export and Import Journal in inviting me today to talk on their "Foreign Trade Aircast." My talk will be on "Trade Between Korea and the Philippines."

Before I begin, I would like to give my listeners a brief sketch of my country. Geographically, Korea is a peninsula extending almost south from Manchuria.

The area of Korea is 220, 813 sq. Km. The general character of the country is mountainous. Since Korea is predominantly an agricultural country, the climate is one of the most important factors in the life of the people. That of Korea is a monsoon climate, but somewhat removed from an open expanse of ocean, Korea is a transitional area, halfway between the continental climate and the marine climate. Korea has cold winters and moderately warm summers. In the matter of sunshine, Korea is favored. During the four summer months, Korean fields receive sunshine from 7-8 hours per day average. Korea has dry season and a rainy season. As to typhoons which are so destructive in the Philippines, Japan, and Formosa, they are rare in Korea and not so destructive.

The people of Korea are an ancient and homogeneous race, distinct from both Chinese and the Japanese. Thought to be descended from two strains, the nomadic tribes of Mongolia and the Caucasian people of Western Asia, the Koreans have both occidental and oriental characteristics. Today the population of Korea total nearly 22 million.

As early as 1905, Japan's victory over Russia gave Japan power over Korea. For forty years the Koreans lived in complete colonial exploitation of the Japanese. The social and

economic life of the people were strictly controlled by Japan. Civil liberty was denied us. Many Korean patriots left the country to establish residence in foreign lands and work for the independence of Korea. Chief among them was Dr. Syngman Rhee, who was elected President-in-exile by the Korean people. Dr. Syngman Rhee spent three decades of his life, mostly in the United States and Hawaii, working for the independence of Korea. He met all kinds of trials and discouragement and lack of funds but he never wavered.

The first commitment for Korea's independence was made in Cairo where President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Chiang Kai-shek agreed, in 1943. Two years later, when war was almost over, Russia entered and declared war over Japan. Russia, together with the three powers, U.S., Great Britain, and China, openly agreed that Korea shall be given her independence.

Six days only after Russia joined the war against Japan, Korea was liberated. To facilitate the acceptance of surrender and prepare the people for eventual independence, Russia and the United States agreed that Russian troops would accept the Japanese surrender above the 38th parallel and the U.S. troops below the 38th parallel. As time went on, the demarcation hardened. At one and the same time liberation extended the promise of freedom for which the nation sought so long, and created division of the country which became a despair.

Delegates of the first U.S.-USSR joint commission, which was formed early in 1946 in accordance with the Moscow agreement, failed to reach agreement on political and administrative coordination between the north and the south zones of Korea. During another stretch of conference from March to May 1946, the commission made no progress on the question of establishing a Korean provisional government throughout the country. The U.S. military government on Sept. 11, 1946, formally placed the Koreans in charge of governmental administration in southern Korea, with Americans in advisory capacities.

Toward the end of the year, the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly convened for the first time.

The second U.S.-USSR joint commission, having again failed to agree, the United States asked the General Assembly of the United Nations to take up the issue, and the U.N. General Assembly on Nov. 14, 1947, adopted a resolution favoring the creation by the Korean people themselves of a provisional government, and subsequent withdrawal of foreign troops in Korea. The General Assembly created a United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea to observe the elections, and consult with elected representatives and the provisional government.

The newly created UN Temporary Commission on Korea arrived in Seoul early in January, 1948, and tried doing its job, but was blocked in all its efforts to enter and work in the northern zone. After receiving instructions from the UN Interim Committee, the Temporary Commission in Korea announced on Feb. 29, 1948, that it would observe the elections in the only part of Korea accessible to it, that is, the area south of the demarcation line between the north and south. The election in south Korea was one of the most historical events. On May 10, 90% of the people voted, and Dr. Syngman Rhee was chosen by the people to head their new Republic. To Dr. Syngman Rhee, it was the end of the struggle for forty years but at the same time, it was also the beginning of work to rebuild a country just emerging from slavery, and to reunite the country.

Everyone is familiar with the Korean war of 1950-1953. This topic of my talk is very fresh, no doubt, in the minds of all Filipinos today, for many Filipino soldiers were sent to help us in the fight to preserve not only the independence of Korea but also for the independence of all freedom-loving people of the world. The United Nations branded north Korea and Red China "aggressors" and no less than ex-President Truman called them a (Quote)"bunch of bandits".(Unquote) In plain language, the North had tried to swallow us in the South into communist fold. Were it not for the

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United Nations, including the Philippines, we would now be lost to the free world. I take this opportunity again, and I believe, I can speak for all good Koreans, to thank the valiant Filipino soldiers who fought side by side with us with the troops of the United Nations for the defense of freedom. There is no doubt that in the heart of every true Korean, we shall always remember and honor your heroic sacrifices you made for the cause of freedom and democracy.

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And now, Mr. Belgica, I believe there are some questions you would like to ask me. I shall be glad to answer them if it is within my power to do so.

Question: What is the actual volume of trade between the Philippines and Korea?

Answer: In the year 1951, the total export of the Philippines to Korea was ₱ 292,310.00. In 1952, there was none. In 1953, the total trade between our two countries amounted to ₱ 3, 295, 597; in 1954, ₱ 4, 458, 880 and in 1955, ₱ 5, 119, 213.00 all in favor of the Philippines.

Question: What are the major export products of Korea to the Philippines?

Answer: Before World War II, in 1937-1941, Korea exported to the Philippines textiles, chemicals, and unprinted paper. And Korea imported logs, fibers, tobacco, and sugar. Korea at that time was still under Japan. After the Korean war, we manufacture cotton yarn, cotton sheeting, raw silk, woolen cloth, paper, and necessities of daily life. The export items are amorphous graphite, iron ore, tungsten, and famous Korean ginseng, apples, dried and salted fish, <sup>handicraft products, garlic, onions.</sup> Korea can produce about one-third of the total tungsten output of the free nations and Korean tungsten exportation can influence the general trend of the world tungsten market. At the present time, tungsten exports occupy approximately 50 to 60 percent of the total exports of Korea and consequently play an important role in the acquisition of foreign exchange.

Question: What does Korea need from the Philippines?

Answer: Korea imports from the Philippines lumber for reconstruction. Manila hemp to meet the growing demand for shipping industry, molasses for making alcohol, and

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raw sugar for refinery.

Question: What are the existing trade arrangements between our two countries?

Answer: At present, there is no trade arrangement between Korea and the Philippines; but under the circumstances, certain products such as fruits, marine products, and other commodities can be imported from Korea. We hope to establish a formal trade agreement between our two countries in the not too distant future.

Question: Could you give us the export and import regulations of Korea insofar as they affect the Philippines?

Answer: Korea has no definite export and import regulations affecting the Philippines. But I would like to explain briefly the general regulations on Korean foreign trade. The exportable items, excluding the restricted items and embargo are allowed for export and import and are grouped into ordinary and special items. Ordinary items are imported by the foreign currency which is deposited in the Import account at the Bank of Korea. Whereas the special items are imported by the foreign exchange obtained from export and other foreign exchanges which the government decides to be treated as export dollars. The Bank of Korea handles the importation carried out by Letter of Credit, and the Custom House deals with the importation by special traders.

Question: What is your opinion on the No-Dollar Law of the Philippines? And how does it affect the trade relations between our two countries?

Answer: The No-Dollar Import Law of the Philippines, as I can see it, does not affect Korea and I believe, even if it does, I will have to tell you, "No comment."

Question: To what point is Korea concerned as to the free acceptance of currencies other than the U.S. dollars?

Answer: The free acceptance of currencies other than the U.S. Dollars, I understand, is not applicable to the "dollar" area. So it is up to my government to formulate its own

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policies on currencies for such policies must necessarily affect trade not only with the Philippines and Korea but all other nations that fall affected.

Question: Summing it up, do you believe there is a bright future for expanding trade between our two countries?

Answer: Summing it up, Mr. Belgica, there is a definite bright future for expanding trade between our two countries. Korea is slowly but surely picking up speed in her rebuilding and we have high hopes that in the future, trade between our two countries will not only expand but may even go beyond the give-and-take basis. My country is in a peculiar circumstance. Korea is divided into North and South. The Republic of Korea has been invaded by the North Koreans and Red Chinese supported by Soviet Russia. Following the devastation of almost the entire South Korea as a result of war, reconstruction and rehabilitation are going on, and it will take several years more to stabilize so as to bring about the restoration of normal conditions. Korea is grateful to all the free nations for their support and financial assistance given to rebuild the nation and at the same time to maintain military forces to defend the country against Communist aggression from the North. Once more, I wish to thank you for the privilege given me to talk about the trade relations between the Philippines and Korea.