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## **September 8, 1956**

### **Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho**

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#### **Summary:**

Young Kee Kim advises Minister Cho that Ministry of National Defense should station a military personnel in Philippines. He also reports on the Philippine government's effort to establish trade relations with Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, and Borneo.

#### **Credits:**

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September 8, 1956

Dear Mr. Minister:

A Seoul UP news carried a story that our Ministry of National Defense is planning to station military attaches with the rank of brigadier general in Manila, Nationalist China and France. At present, U.S., Thailand, China, Indonesia, Spain and the United Kingdom maintain military attaches here. It is important for the Ministry of National Defense to station a military personnel here to strengthen the public relations with the members of the armed forces of the Philippines. During the war, five Philippine Battalion combat teams numbering about 6,000 officers and men participated in the Korean war, and some of the former commanding officers have attained prominent positions in the army.

To station a military attache in Manila is quite costly. The standard of living should be at par with that of a diplomat. The military attache rents a decent house and owns a car with a chauffeur to attend military and social functions. If a Korean military attache, with the rank of brigadier general, is stationed here, he has to keep up the prestige of his rank and country. For your information, I shall enumerate a few items of expenditures per month: salary - P1,000; house rent - P700.00; car allowance with chauffeur and representation fund - P300.00. These are minimum requirements. Manila, being the second city with the highest cost of living in the world, even American diplomats complain of their inadequacy of meeting the high cost of living expenses.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Appropriation Act pertaining to the Department of Foreign Affairs for the fiscal year of July 1, 1956 to June 30, 1957.

Dr. Roberto Regala, until recently ambassador to Australia, has been appointed as the first Philippine ambassador to Italy replacing incumbent Minister Manuel A. Alzate, who will be recalled to the home office for reassignment to the newly elevated Philippine Embassy in Karachi. Alzate, who was Consul General in Honolulu before he went to Rome, will be the first ambassador to Pakistan. Recently the Pakistan government announced its decision to reciprocate the raising of its legation to embassy in Manila.

Mr. Horace Smith, who was counsellor of economic affairs, U.S. Embassy in Seoul, will be coming here to take the place of Mr. Charles R. Burrows, minister and counsellor at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, who will leave on October 11. Mr. Smith started as

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language officer in Peking in 1929 and thereafter in Canton, Tainan, Shanghai, Chungking and Tihva. His postwar assignments included Moscow, Berlin, Athens and Madrid.

The business circles hailed the government's plan to establish trade relations with the sterling countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Burma and Borneo and other Asian countries to expand and diversify its external trade. Exchange problems could be easily solved by adopting the convertible sterling as a medium of trade exchange. The import and export payments can be made in convertible sterling, and the balance in the transaction could be converted into dollars after a specific period of time. It is proposed to organize a trade mission to these sterling countries with a view of spot survey for the promotion and expansion of trade with the sterling block area.

Conscious of unfavorable trade balance, the Philippine government bends every effort to seek foreign market for the Philippine products. The preferential tariff concession from the U.S. will gradually diminish as years go by, and the Department of Foreign Affairs sent out trained commercial attaches to its missions abroad. There are about ten commercial attaches serving in different missions and this year's program calls for the appointment of additional seven more who are qualified to act as Philippine trade representatives.

The specifications of Taiwan garlic importation to the Philippines is hereby attached for your information which you may relay to the Ministry of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,

  
YOUNG KEE KIM

The Honorable Chung Whan Cho,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Seoul, Korea.

Copy for the President

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