

July 18, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Chung Whan Cho on the trade between Korea and Philippines and advises to establish a consultation board to develop export trade.

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Dear Mr. Minister:

Since the return of the Philippine trade and goodwill mission from Korea, the importation of Korean products has been stimulated by those who are directly concerned with the export and import trade. Undersecretary of Commerce and Industry Perfecto Iagulo invited me to a luncheon to discuss the promotion of a two-way trade, whereas it had been a one-way trade in favor of the Philippines. It has been suggested that commodities from Korea such as onion, garlic, fruits, textiles and salted fish can be imported into this country to the extent of offsetting the P5 million Philippine export to Korea every year.

I wonder if there is any commission or board directly responsible for the promotion of overseas trade. I am sure the representatives of your Ministry, the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Forestry can organize a consultation board to devise ways and means of how to develop export trade. If you need any reference material, I shall be very happy to furnish you with some. If our government makes a request to the ICA to assign an advisor who specializes in marketing or foreign trade, that will start the ball rolling.

Mr. Guillermo R. Padolina, Travelling Commissioner, Boy Scouts International Bureau, Far East Office, expects to visit Korea from July 25 to 30, 1956. Miss Helena Z. Benitez, Executive Vice President of the Philippine Women's University, informed us of her trip to Korea in October. As she is a member of the President of the Philippines' Asian Commission, she is desirous of knowing more about Korea. She is an influential leader in education and civic organizations here.

Nationalist China has dispatched a "small force" of troops to the disputed Nansha (Spratley) Islands, west of the Philippines, which are also being claimed by Vietnam, France and an enterprising Filipino citizen, Tomas Cloma. However, the Philippine government warned its nationals of possible dangers that might arise from contesting the sovereignty over the islands.

Australian Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies will make an official visit to the Philippines about the end of July.

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The 55-year old Prime Minister is a liberal conservative.
Newly appointed French Ambassador to the Philippines Georges
Cattand will arrive here soon.

Sincerely yours,

Young Lee Kim
YOUNG LEE KIM

The Honorable Chung Whan Cho,
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Korea,
Seoul

-- Copy for the President