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July 16, 1956

Letter, Do Soon Chung to Syngman Rhee

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Summary:

Do Soon Chung asks for help of President Rhee to bring his wife to Philippines during his time of service.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

July 16, 1956

Excellency:

May I have Your Excellency's permission to present to you directly my personal problem? I have exhausted all means to solve it and to no avail, so that now I have taken the last resort which is a direct appeal to you, with the approval of Minister Young Kee Kim.

I have been assigned to the Legation in Manila since September, 1955, where I am proud to serve our country as Third Secretary and Vice Consul of this Legation.

Some months after my arrival here in Manila, Minister Kim was kind enough to write on several occasions to Dr. Chung Whan Cho, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, requesting him to issue a passport to my wife, Mrs. Yoh Yung Kee Chung, who is at present an English teacher at Sungshin Girls' High School, Seoul, that she may be able to join me here.

As my wife is very keen in furthering her studies, the Philippine Women's University, Manila, has granted her a scholarship for one year. She prepared all the necessary documents, in compliance with the regulations; she successfully took the examinations given by both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education for scholars abroad. But, when she applied for her passport, her application was turned down. She is very anxious to know the reason for the refusal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue her a passport, while other scholars were granted passports after the completion of the same procedure.

This disappointment was too great for her to bear alone, and since then she was never herself again. My wife's coming to the Philippines means so much to her and to me for we have been separated from each other a year and a half after our marriage and we have no child to comfort her while I am away.

The climate here in Manila is warm all throughout the year. The Korean community is so small, it is composed mostly of Korean men married to Filipino women. My life after office hours is a dreary one - I have no family to talk with - in an apartment just facing four walls.

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That is why I am appealing to Your Excellency to allow my wife to come to Manila for the duration of my tour of duty here which will probably end on September of next year. I am sure her presence here will build up my morale for the months to come. I promise Your Excellency that I will bring back my wife to Korea upon the termination of my tour of duty in Manila. I will pay all her travelling expenses from Korea and back.

On many occasions, I have attended social functions where I have met foreign diplomats who are enjoying their official as well as their private lives here with their families, even though they are far away from their homelands.

May I be permitted to appeal to Your Excellency with the hope that you will favorably act on my humble request.

I wish to reaffirm to Your Excellency my continuous loyalty and faithful service to your administration.

Accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Your Excellency's Obedient Servant,


DO SOON CHUNG

His Excellency Syngman Rhee,
President of the Republic of Korea,
Kyung Mu Dai,
Seoul.