

June 8, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim reports to Minister Cho on the conflict between China, Philippines, and Japan over Spratlys and the persons in the Trade and Goodwill Mission.

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Dear Minister Cho:

Claim of Freedomland might become an international imbroglio involving counter claims from Nationalist China, Red China, South Vietnam and the United Kingdom. A group of small islets, comprising of 12 islands, situated 350 miles southwestern of Palawan and 1000 miles distant from Taipeh, is called Spratlys. A Filipino, Tomas Cloma, President of the Philippine Maritime Institute, claimed the islets in the name of the Philippine government and has sent an expedition of 29 persons to one of the islets. Spratlys was considered as one of the smugglers' centers and the area is dangerous for navigation for the water is shallow and full of corals.

The Nationalist China is reportedly dispatching a minesweeper and a patrol boat to the islands over which it claims sovereignty. During the war, the Jap soldiers garrisoned there and they were disarmed by the Chinese army, then following the fall of the Mainland China to the Reds, the Nationalist Chinese armed forces were withdrawn from the islands. Nothing serious will cause any international complication. All the Filipino adventurer desires is the intervention by the United States in favor of the Philippines claim. U.S. Seventh Fleet Commander Admiral Stuart Ingersoll warned Red China that the U.S. would "not look with favor" upon the extension of Communist Chinese interests to the controversial islands west of the Philippines.

Six Korean delegates arrived here to attend the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Marketing Workshop being held since last week. Dr. Nam Kyu Chung, chief of the Korean delegation, was elected as Vice Chairman of the Conference.

Mr. Feng Tsun Ngho, chief of general affairs division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taipeh, has been appointed as Minister to the Philippines, succeeding Mr. Chow Shu-kai who was transferred to his home office to become Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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Dr. Claude Ewing, Professor of Education of the University of Hawaii, will head a team of educators who will come to Manila to establish a vocation teachers' training institute. The Philippine government, conscious of its lack of technical know-how personnel, bends every effort to train young people to get into the vocational training to handle all types of machinery that will be brought into this country as a result of the Jap reparations payment in goods and machinery.

The Trade and Goodwill Mission, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, is composed of the following persons:

1. Efron V. Mendoza, Director of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Chairman of the Mission.
2. Teofilo Tanjuatco, Administrative Officer, Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Marketing Administration.
3. Enrique R. Angeles, Proprietor of E.R. Angeles & Co., Importers and Exporters.
4. Hilarion M. Henares, Jr., Manager, Hilarion Henares & Sons, Inc., Manufacturers.
5. Juan P. Juan, J.P. Juan & Co., Importers and Exporters.

Two observers.

The Trade and Goodwill Mission's trip was approved by the President and the Cabinet of the Philippine government. The Mission members left Manila on June 5 for Japan and will stay in Korea from June 25 to 28th.

Sincerely yours,


YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy for the President.