

**March 19, 1956**  
**Report No. 77 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee about US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' visit to Philippines and the talk of reparations between Philippines and Japan.

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Report No. 77

LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

March 19, 1956

Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles assured President Magsaysay of the continued support of the American government in the Philippines' effort toward economic security, as stated in a joint statement issued after the President and the U.S. Secretary of State had met behind closed door at Malacañang a few hours after Dulles' arrival at Manila. During his one day visit, Dulles officially announced the U.S. government's decision on the choice of the Philippines as the best qualified country in Asia to become the site of an atomic research center. Twenty million dollars have been appropriated for the establishment of the "atoms for peace" project.

Dulles also related to President Magsaysay his impressions of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization council of ministers' meeting held last week at Karachi. It was confidentially reported that Dulles told at the closed session of the SEATO meet the necessity of creating a standing military force to protect vulnerable nations from the Communist aggression. Thirty military men from eight signatory nations will meet soon in Honolulu for the discussion of "classified" matters involving defense of SEATO area. The SEATO planning activities would be resumed next June with the meeting of SEATO military staff planners in Singapore under the auspices of the United Kingdom.

Vice President Garcia, who was chairman of the Philippine delegation to the SEATO, issued a statement shortly after his arrival from Hongkong stressing that the SEATO was "no longer a paper tiger", and further said that as it grows in strength, it aims to expand and to embrace other democratic nations desirous to join the SEATO.

At a black tie dinner honoring Chinese Ambassador and Mrs. Chen Chih-mai, Senator Delgado suggested that Korea should join SEATO in the near future because of her strategic position in Asia as well as her potential military strength in the defense of democratic nations against the infiltration and subversion of the Communists. The French Ambassador, Mr. Jean Brionval, who was present at the party, expressed that his country has great admiration for the Korean people for their courageous fight against a big country like Russia. He further said that the French people have high esteem of the people of Finland and Korea. He is of the opinion that the application of Korea's

277



- 2 -

membership to the SEATO would be favorably considered by the French government. As far as Vietnam is concerned, it is too premature to consider her adherence to SEATO.

The Philippines and Japan apparently moved closer toward the settlement of the reparations question, as President Magsaysay received Premier Hatoyama's reply to the Philippine note on the issue. It is still at a preliminary stage where wrangled portions of the payment and investment terms remain to be solved on a higher level. Hatoyama's reply indicates that the \$800 million dollar reparations settlement is acceptable in principle to him. Aiichiro Fujiyama, Japan's number one industrialist, brought Hatoyama's reply to the President. Fujiyama, now 58, is president of Dai Nippon Sugar Production Company and several other business firms. He is also head of the National Federation of United Nations Economic and Social Council Associations of Japan.

Faithfully yours,

*Young Kee Kim*  
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy to The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Chung Whan Cho

278