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March 19, 1956

Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim informs Minister Cho about the departure of US Ambassador and the strike by the Filipino Transport Workers.

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Dear Minister Cho:

With the departure of U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Homer Ferguson, the Manila social life kept pace with black-tie dinners and cocktails feted by the host government officials and members of the diplomatic corps. We gave Mrs. Ferguson a pearl-in-laid lacquer jewel box as a token of friendship, and she appreciated it very much. No successor has been announced by Washington and there is speculation that Mr. Langley, who was instrumental in the enactment of the Laurel-Langley Trade Revision Act or U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Rockefeller may become successor to outgoing Ambassador Homer Ferguson. I have been reliably informed that the next U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines would be a career diplomat who has experience in the negotiations of U.S. property claim settlement now pending between the Philippines and the U.S.

Six Korean amateur boxers with two officials arrived here a couple of days ago and they are scheduled to stage a series of bouts with local amateur boxers who were in Korea last year. Mr. Jeung Hoon Song, publisher of the Pictorial Korea, who came here to cover the pictures in connection with the Asian Anti-Communist Conference, donated some pictures on Korea and also lent us fifty colored slides to be shown at the Korean cultural program to be held on March 25th. He promised to donate twenty copies of 1955 Pictorial Korea to the Korean Legation for distribution among friends of Korea. As we received, gratis, one hundred copies of the book - "Syngman Rhee, The Man Behind the Myth" - from the Korean Pacific Press, the books were donated with the compliments of the Korean Legation to city and school libraries and to friends of Korea.

Port operations were paralyzed and cargo was diverted to Hongkong after 3000 Philippine Transport Workers went on strike against foreign shipping companies as a result of their failure to grant the workers' demands for higher wage and closed shop. As the country is infested with smugglers of luxury goods, a combined team from the Bureau of Customs, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Central Bank went to Hongkong to confer with officials of the Crown Colony. Imported merchandise from Hongkong is scrutinized at the customs house, and often powdered heroin concealed in sealed containers is discovered.



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Senator Francisco Delgado, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged the expansion of foreign service because of his country's growing importance in the scope of international affairs. A revolving fund of Five Million Pesos from collections of Philippine diplomatic missions abroad, will be used in the purchase of buildings which will enhance the prestige of the Philippines and will be of economic advantage to the missions.

Sincerely yours,

Young Kee Kim.
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy for the President

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