

**December 8, 1957**  
**Confidential Report from Lincoln Hoon Kim to  
Francesca Rhee**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Report and apology about a Korean flag at the ECAFE, which was hung upside down.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
MANILA, PHILIPPINESCONFIDENTIAL

December 8, 1957

According to the Foreign Affairs Ministry's instruction, Mr. Ho Joon Park of our Legation has now attending the ECAFE Conference from December 4th. at the Congress Building here. On December 5th. morning as I was passing the Congress Building, I noticed there ECAFE Conference participant countries' flags flying and our flag is among them too. But I noticed that our flag is flying in up side down position. So immediately I requested the officer in charge to correct the position and there he did so. In the evening when Mr. Park came back to Legation, I called him and asked him whether he did notice that our flag was up side down position. He said he did not notice. Then I said to him whether he knows the correct way of flying, he said he does not know. Then I asked him whether he knows any thing about the four corner figures, he said he has no idea just what they are for.

Well, Madame, this is really my very great regret and shame that a man of a consul's position does not know his country's flag figure and meaning and does not know the correct form of flying. Now I start to wonder whether the other officers in our Foreign Affairs Ministry know any thing about our flag. If many of them are equally ignorant as this Mr. Park we must now get busy to train them immediately and especially train those officers who are in the offices abroad and those who are going away to the offices in abroad. This is really a great shame of my country. I very much hope that our government must take up a special measure to all government service people to know and to learn the most important common sense and knowledge concerning his government.

