

**June 22, 1957**  
**Report No. 121 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman  
Rhee**

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**Summary:**

Minister Kim briefs President Rhee on the signing of the anti-Communist bill in the Congress of Philippines and the internal political situation.

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**LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
MANILA

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Joon Chung*

June 22, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

President Garcia signed into law the bill outlawing the Communist Party and making Huk rebellion a capital offense. Members of Congress, diplomatic corps, the cabinet, and civic leaders were present at the signing. The President said to me, "It will be very interesting to you," and I answered affirmatively adding that the signing of the anti-Communist bill will strengthen the forces of free and democratic nations in Asia.

Acting Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus warned the nation "our country and the people recognize Communism is at war with our country." He urged the people to reject the easing of trade restrictions with Red China.

Officials of the Commission on Elections and the army brass have agreed to use the armed forces in maintaining free and orderly elections next November. The following terms were agreed upon regarding the conduct of the November polls: 1) The constabulary will be used on the election and registration days; 2) As few military men as possible will be deputized by the Commission on Elections; 3) proper safeguards to insure free and clean elections.

The contest of the presidential aspirants is now being waged by three national figures - incumbent president Garcia (Nacionalista), Jose Yulo (Liberal), and Claro M. Recto (ultra-nationalist). Recto's party composed of independents, Nacionalista and Liberal Party deserters, and original supporters of the Magsaysay for President Movement is still in the formative stage while the national conventions for the respective political parties are scheduled to be convened in July.

Fearing possible disturbance that might be created by City Mayor Arsenio Lacson and his critics of the Garcia administration, the Nacionalista Party has decided to hold its party convention on July 27 outside of Manila while the other political parties will follow suit later on. Although the Garcia-Laurel, Jr. team has every advantage to win the November election, it is conceded that the Liberal Party is not so meek as it was after its 1953 election defeat, and the popularity of Recto might steal the show. The triangle fight for the winning of the national elections will be most exciting and stimulating to the

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free nations in Asia.

All say that Garcia is a good man. He is a seasoned politician, an eloquent orator and legislator, but lacking in magnetic persuasive power that his predecessor had. His administration is looked upon to be too weak to reckon with. In my personal opinion, the Nacionalista Party will retain power under the leadership of President Garcia for another term of four years ending in 1961.

Your obedient servant,

*Young Kee Kim.*  
YOUNG KEE KIM

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

Copy sent to Minister Chung Whan Cho.

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