

May 31, 1957
**Report No. 119 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the full assurance of Garcia's victory in the upcoming Presidential election and the media's response to the Taipei riots.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

May 31, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

Two Nacionalista presidential aspirants have agreed to withdraw their candidacy thus clearing the way for the nomination of President Garcia as the majority standard bearer in the coming elections. Most influential Senators (NP) Laurel and Paredes openly declared their adherence to the principle of preserving NP unity in the selection of their candidate for president. Garcia's victory in winning the presidential nomination at the Nacionalista Party convention is fully assured; and once the issue has been settled, the NP's national convention will soon be called.

Near violence and tumult marked the "sine die" adjournment of the Congress at 2:44, midnight of May 24 at which performance, the ₱843,580,000 budget and ₱257,298,000 public works bill, including a total of 32 million pesos for the "pork barrel" of senators and congressmen, were passed; the senators getting ₱450,000 each and congressmen ₱200,000 each. President Garcia will have at his disposal a sum of ₱12,000,000 as contingent fund. The "pork barrel" fund will provide the legislators and the Chief Executive with sufficient monetary outlay to supply odd jobs to those political supporters at the national elections.

Aside from the budget, the public works bills, the tariff code and important measures that finally poured out of the legislative mills were: 1) anti-subversive measures outlawing Communist activities, 2) creating a reparations commission with offices in Manila, 3) establishing the nuclear commission in the Philippines, 4) granting a sum of ₱100,000 to Mrs. Luz Magsaysay, widow of the late President Magsaysay, 5) appropriating ₱15,000,000 for the conduct of the November elections.

Commenting on the Taipei riots, the Manila Daily Bulletin (American) believes there must be several things wrong in Formosa. "For one thing there is no proper status of forces agreement governing military-civilian relations. For another, the matter of discipline and morale would bear looking into." Manila Chronicle (Independent

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and nationalistic) says: "It would be a wise move on the part of the United States if she tried to remove once and for all the causes which strained Philippine-American relations." The Evening News, (pro-government), commented that "the Taipei riots were even more disturbing because they were directed against an old friend and staunch ally, the United States---. Of all the countries in Asia, next to the Philippines perhaps, Taiwan is most inconceivable as a scene of rioting against the U.S." The Morning Journal (Chinese) pleads, "It would appear that the U.S. government in the same spirit of seeking to repair the damage and restore good Sino-American relations, should follow a patient and constructive approach rather than one of retaliation, direct or indirect."

Your most 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, Minister of Foreign Affairs.