

May 11, 1957
**Report No. 117 from Young Kee Kim to Syngman
Rhee**

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs Minister Cho on the possible candidates for the next presidential election in the Philippines.

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LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

May 11, 1957

Dear Mr. President:

With time running short to finish up the legislative tasks within ten days, the legislators of both houses have agreed to approve the top priority bills. The entire body of the House of Representatives and one-third of twenty-four Senators will be busy stumping for their bids for re-election at the national elections. The national convention of the Liberal Party is scheduled to be held in Manila in June while the ruling Nacionalista Party will hold its national convention in July. The third party, now in its formative stage by Senator Claro M. Recto, waits for its turn in consolidating all the new and old elements from both political parties. Recto has never met political defeat in his life. He is supported by countless friends and admirers who have placed their wealth, talent, and time at his disposal.

On the Nacionalista ticket, the Garcia-Laurel, Jr. team is a formidable one because "old guard" politicians are backing up the present administration with the hope that Garcia, successor to Magsaysay, may be able to keep hold of potential strength of the Magsaysay-for-President Movement. Senator Gil Puyat, one of the influential and ambitious politicians, has a large following especially among the industrial and business circles and the sugar bloc. He is a successful business executive and economist. On the Liberal Party side, Jose Yulo, former House Speaker, has been urged to accept the presidential nomination and he has cancelled his projected trip to the States. Yulo was candidate for vice president in the defeated Quirino-Yulo ticket in 1953.

Minister Cosme P. Garcia indicates his desire to return to Manila to assist his brother's presidential campaign as he had done before. President Garcia confided to me the other day that his brother's return would be preferable after his bid for presidential nomination is accepted by the Nacionalista party convention.

For the first time, the SEATO nations and South Vietnam maneuvered the defense alliance's naval exercise called "Sealink" in the Philippines. Eighty-eight representatives from Australia, the



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United States, Thailand, France, South Vietnam, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines participated in the exercises while New Zealand and Pakistan were unable to send their delegates and the other protocol states, of the regional alliance, Cambodia and Laos, refused to attend on the pretext of lack of funds. It is aimed to test the ability of combined SEATO naval forces in supporting ground operations with sustained naval gunfire. Last week, ships and aircraft of the US, UK, France, and Australia completed the first part of several training exercises codenamed "Astra". From May 29 to June 1st, an air-ground exercise called "Airlink" will be staged in Bangkok which will involve a small force of SEATO airforce in support of ground forces.

Yours 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, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.