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Letter, Do Soon Chung to Syngman Rhee

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Report No. 116
LEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
MANILA

April 17, 1957

Excellency:

Reports that a Chinese group has offered P12 million to highly placed government officials in consideration of extension of visas to some 2,726 temporary Chinese visitors first began circulating at the same time Commissioner of Immigration Emilio Galang, testifying before the Senate finance committee, hit the Department of Foreign Affairs policy of accepting temporary visitors into the country provided they posted cash bonds, and of allowing these visitors to have their stay extended twice for three months each. Galang also testified that the late President Magsaysay had told him about the middle of last year that a powerful politician had been pressuring him into legalizing the stay of the aliens. The late President's reaction had been one of indignation. Manila's Mayor Iacson also stated that the late President had told him of the same bribery attempt.

President Garcia stated that the problem of overstaying Chinese nationals was handed down from the old Liberal administration which, he said, failed to handle the repatriation of the Chinese concerned. From 1954, Garcia added, none of the temporary visitors allowed into the country have overstayed their visit. The president further stated that the Chinese Embassy here had already devised a plan for the gradual repatriation of the aliens. Under this plan, there would be 4 categories constituting priorities in the deportation of these aliens. The plan is now under study by the Taipeh government which up to now has refused to accept the overstaying aliens. Acting Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus testified that he knew nothing of the P12 million lobby and that since February the issuance of temporary visas has been suspended.

With regards to this charge of the P12 million lobby, Senate President Rodriguez challenged those who have denounced the lobby to come out with names. Rodriguez stated that these charges are part of a campaign to discredit the Nacionalista Party. The Liberals on the other hand insist that the P12 million lobby is part of the NP election fund raising campaign. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is ready to undertake the investigation as soon as a formal complaint is filed but congressmen, however, expressed their preference that the Dept. of Justice conduct the probe in order to guarantee impartiality.



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In an unprecedented move, members of the National Economic Council denounced the International Cooperation Administration in the Philippines for "dictating" to the NEC foreign aid office in the matter of economic programming. NEC Acting Presiding Officer Eduardo Z. Romualdez and other council members castigated the NEC foreign aid office for "kowtowing" to the ICA mission in the particular proposal to send 331 Filipinos in the NEC-ICA joint training program. It was charged that the trainees were being selected on the basis of "pre-arrangements" between the NEC foreign aid office and the ICA. The council, according to the charge, is absolutely ignorant concerning the selection methods employed in the determination of training grants. The council contends that it should have a larger share in the responsibility of determining fields where Filipino technicians may be afforded training since the Philippine government is spending as much, if not more, in counterpart funds for the execution of the program. Romualdez ordered the foreign aid office of the NEC to inform the council even of the initial stages of any economic aid programming and not to enter into any negotiations with the ICA beforehand. He said the council was to decide the selections and not the foreign aid office.

Upon receipt of a cablegram from the APACL which informed us that the Korean Artists' Goodwill Mission has cancelled its visit to the Philippines due to the untimely death of the late President Magsaysay, I immediately notified the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Anti-Communist Movement which were supposed to have sponsored the performances of the Mission here. May I be permitted to express my gratitude for Your Excellency's prompt attention in this regard.

Your most obedient servant,

Do Soon Chung
DO SOON CHUNG

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

Copy sent to Foreign Minister Chung Whan Cho.

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