

March 18, 1957
Letter, Young Kee Kim to Chung Hwan Cho

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Summary:

Minister Kim briefs Minister Cho on the textile trade between Japan and Philippines and the Artists' goodwill mission to Manila.

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March 18, 1957

*Trans. to Seoul
Case author on the matter
(5/21 from)*

Dear Mr. Minister:

When I went to the International Airport to see Vice President Garcia off, he confidentially told me that Juan J. Homillosa, Secretary and Consul of the Philippine Legation in Seoul, is reportedly mulcting Koreans for the issuance of entry visas to the Philippines. He further said that the behaviour of Homillosa has been unbecoming to a foreign service official. The Vice President asked me if I would report to my government on Homillosa's case and effect his removal from the Seoul post. I told him that it would be much easier for the Philippine Foreign Office to recall him for a new assignment. The Vice President, keenly sensitive of his brother's present diplomatic status, does not want to get himself involved in the removal of the Minister's junior official. I assured him that our government will extend full cooperation but any move to get him transferred should be initiated by the Philippine Foreign Office.

The Philippine Cabinet lifted the ban on the importation of Japanese textiles on a restricted basis, irrespective of the country of origin. All textile imports covered by the barter permits will be allowed entry into the country up to December 31, 1957. It is estimated that there would be a deficiency of 111 million yards of cotton textiles for the country's needs. The Japanese textiles will flood the market and very soon the infant textile industry will complain to the government of losing the market due to underpricing of Japanese textiles.

Trade between the Philippines and Sweden showed continued increase. Exports from the Philippines, primarily copra and hemp, rose from \$18.3 million in 1955 to \$26.5 million in 1956, or 45% increase, while the imports from Sweden increased from \$2.3 million in 1955 to \$5.8 million in 1956, or 150% increase in the import of machinery and equipment.

Professor N.V.M. Gonzalez of the University of the Philippines called on me saying that he is going to visit Korea on a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship grant. He will go there with his wife to study Korean literature and folklore. During his one-week stay in Korea sometime in May, he would like to meet Korean authors.



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I wish to express my deep appreciation for your clarification on the projected visit to Manila of the Artists' Goodwill Mission on April 10 to 15. Under the joint auspices of the Philippine Chapter, APACL, Chinese Anti-Communist League of the Philippines, and Cultural Section, Department of Foreign Affairs, all the programs will be arranged. The Reception Committee favors free-admission engagements to interest the maximum number of people for the furtherance of goodwill and advancement of cultural relations among the peoples. They hope to raise some money for the expenses in connection with the publicity, local transportation for the Goodwill Missioners while in Manila, and entertainment.

Upon the receipt of the FORMIN instruction dated March 11, an application was filed with the Philippine Navy for the clearance of the Korean Navy vessel due to arrive here on or about April 10. As the Philippine Navy advised us that all the necessary information, i.e., name of the vessel, name of captain, and other information are pre-requisites for an entry permit, a radiogram was dispatched to FORMIN on March 12, asking for pertinent data on the Korean Navy vessel. Until this morning (March 18) we have received no information either from the FORMIN or the office of the Korean Chapter, APACL. Social functions and entertainments are cancelled in respect to the untimely tragic death of President Magsaysay.

Yours very truly,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

Minister Chung Whan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency President Syngman Rhee.

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