

February 18, 1957
Report No. 108 from Young Kee Kim to Chung Whan Cho

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Summary:

Young Kee Kim briefs President Rhee on the chief concerns of the Bangalore ECAFE conference, economic and political issues of the member nations.

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Report No. 108

*cc Min Han
Feb 26**Minister Kim's
excerpt from letter (Manila)*

February 18, 1957

Dear Mr. Minister:

When I met Japanese ambassador Asakai at the regular monthly Mission Chiefs meeting, he told me that he would very likely attend the ECAFE conference at Bangkok next month. He was deputy chief delegate at the Bangalore ECAFE conference where he and I were casually acquainted. When I asked him about the question of admission to ECAFE of Outer Mongolia and Red China which would be sponsored by Soviet Russia, he told me that Japan will oppose the Russian move to admit the Russian satellites.

The chief concerns of the ECAFE conference are centered on the progress and economic development of the regional member nations, and at the same time, political problems invariably pop up at the plenary session, confusing the economic issues. Russia and her satellites India, Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Ceylon, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Indonesia will gang up against the free nations comprised by the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Nationalist China, United Kingdom, France, Japan, and possibly Pakistan. Of the twenty-one participating nations, twelve nations have diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia while ten nations recognize Red China, and five nations neither recognize Soviet Russia nor Red China. Any wrong move or lack of diplomatic maneuvering would tip the scale in favor of Communist alignment. It is advantageous to have Korea represented by experienced delegates who are familiar with other delegations and procedures. Consul General Kyu Ha Choi of the Korean Mission in Tokyo and Deputy Governor In Sang Song of the Bank of Korea made excellent representation at the Bangalore ECAFE conference last year.

Swedish Foreign Minister Oesten Unden and Foreign Minister Halward Lange of Norway will be coming here next month on board the Scandinavian Airlines inaugural Europe-Japan transpolar flight. Both of the foreign ministers will be included among the inaugural guests of the SAS polar flight which will carry them to Tokyo where they will stay five days and then proceed to Manila on March 3 as the official guests of the Philippine government.

During the eleven months ending November, 1956, Dutch imports from the Philippines totalled P42,761,680 while exports amounted to P14,432,600. In comparison with the same period of 1955, it showed marked increase on the two-way trade between the two countries. (All computation is on the basis of P0.52 to a Dutch guilder.)

Yours very truly,

Young Kee Kim
YOUNG KEE KIM

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Minister Chung Wnan Cho
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Seoul, Korea

Copy sent to His Excellency Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic
of Korea.

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