

September 28, 1957

**Letter No. 57 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs President Rhee on a meeting with Itagaki regarding Korea-Japan problems and Korea's proposed final draft.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

September 28, 1957

No.57

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

SUBJECT : Korea-Japan Problems

Late yesterday afternoon I received a call from Itagaki requesting a meeting for 10:00 this morning. When I met him as scheduled today, Itagaki related to me his meeting with the officials of the ministries concerned with Korea-Japan problems and of the various suggestions made at the time, which when put together, could only delay the settlement of the problems. Itagaki also spoke of the peculiar and delicate position of the prime minister, confessing that the real motive for calling today's meeting was to request the Korean side to present a new proposal which would specifically clarify the extent of terms with which the Korean side would be satisfied. He added apologetically that the pertinent Japanese authorities are afraid the Korean side will request for further amendments, citing as example, the draft agreements drawn up on June 13 and of the assurance Ambassador Kim gave the Japanese side that it would be a mere matter of time when the agreements would be signed. The ambassador, being the representative of his government, Itagaki said they took him at his word. Having had such an experience, Itagaki said the opposition groups are asking, that since they could not rest assured the Korean side will not again come up with demands for revisions and additions, the Japanese side must have a new proposal that will confirm and reassure them of its finality. Itagaki stated he could not do anything but carry out what they advised in his position as the Asian Affairs bureau chief.

side

I told Itagaki that the Japanese/was in receipt of our final proposal; also, my personal suggestion in consideration of his position, that along with his proposal made on the 21st, if the Japanese side deletes reference to the U.S. memorandum from the note verbale as well as the joint communique, I might bring the matter up to our government. As to his reference to what happened with the June 13 draft agreements, I told Itagaki that the ambassador only gave his opinion and not his approval. I accused him of taking a fault-finding attitude.

Itagaki replied that his proposal made on the 21st was received with much opposition, however, in order to settle the problems, he decided to have his way or else there would be no solution. As to deleting reference to the U.S. memorandum from the joint communique as well as the note verbale, he strongly stated he could not accept it. Itagaki then repeated his request for another specific proposal from us, adding that it was most important for the Japanese side to receive it from our Foreign Ministry. This proposal, he said, must give

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specific clarification the extent of terms with which the Korean side will be satisfied and through which they will be able to know the real intention of the Korean side.

With Nehru due to visit Tokyo in the early part of next month, Itagaki said he would be very busy as will Kishi who is presently in Osaka but who will return and leave again for the Kyushu area after Nehru's departure. Also, with Fujiyama due to return on the 4th, the Ministry would be so busy there would not be time to hold talks with us. He asked that I take the opportunity of the interval to take up the matter of a new proposal with the government.

I reiterated to Itagaki that our government had no other proposal in mind.

The Japs are wary that we might bring up new demands.

No doubt Kishi and Itagaki will be very busy and I know there will not be any talks for the time being. Unfortunately, Yatsugi will also leave for Taipeh to attend the Chinese Double Ten celebration and will not return until the 15th.

My personal opinion is that we should not show signs that we are anxious and in haste. That will be taken by the Japs as our weak point. I am therefore dealing with them by using threats and cajolery at the same time.

Yuri Kuznetsov