

September 18, 1957

**Letter No. 51 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Tai Ha Yiu briefs Syngman Rhee on a conversation with Itagaki regarding his proposal and the Korean property claims.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

September 18, 1957

No. 51TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

At my meeting with Yatsugi this afternoon, he related to me his meetings with the officials of the Finance Ministry and the Economic Planning Board and their strong attitude against accepting the Korean proposed amendments. According to Yatsugi, Kishi's influence in his own cabinet is not the same as it was when the agreements were drafted in June and if he is to regain what he lost it would take a considerable time and if a sudden change in the political situation were to take place, every hope of settling the Korea-Japan problems would be lost. Kono and Ikeda, the two most strong opponents are opposing Kishi merely for political reasons, he said.

Stating that politics and diplomacy follow closely at the heels of the other, Yatsugi expressed his hope that although it would not be altogether satisfactory the Korean side should accept Itagaki's proposal and settle the problems. If the preliminary talks succeed, he said that it would enhance Kishi's prestige to some extent. He added that we could make use of Kishi at the formal conference as the latter, being the kind of person he is, would feel indebted and try to reciprocate it in some way.

I told Yatsugi that it would not be possible for me to get the understanding of our government with his statement and asked him to get Kishi to give us in writing that he will with sincerity settle the Korean property claims without regard to the U.S. memorandum. I said that we would keep it in strictest confidence. After a long silence, Yatsugi stated he would take the matter up with Kishi. I told him that by latest the end of this month we should reach some agreement.

Yatsugi is still trying to have the Jap officials accept our terms. I am convinced of his sincerity.