

August 17, 1957

**Letter No. 42 from Tai Ha Yiu [Yu Tae-ha] of the
Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee**

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Summary:

Yu briefs Syngman Rhee on a meeting with Uemura Kentaro, regarding the pullout of US forces from Japan and Japanese defense forces problem.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, August 17, 1957

No. 42

TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

Yang ✓

I met Uemura Kentaro, director-general of the Procurement Agency last evening. He is a member of the Ishii group and in the past has been quite helpful to me. This procurement agency deals in supplying the needs of the U.S. Security Forces in Japan.

We should act on the matter ourselves too. I strongly suspect that Americans are here to turn over some weapons to us because of our loose security system!

According to Uemura, most of the U.S. ground forces have withdrawn from Japan. The withdrawal, however, leaves the problem of what to do with the weapons -- whether the U.S. force will leave them behind for use by the Japanese self-defense forces or transfer them elsewhere. The Japanese side has been negotiating the transfer of such ammunition to the Japanese self defense forces for some time, but there seems to be strong opposition in the Pentagon about turning them over to Japan, the reason being that Japan is not in a position to have such secret weapons in the absence of a law dealing with the protection of such secrets, Uemura said, and hopes of possessing such weapons by Japan is rather remote for the time being. The United States considers turning over up-to-date weapons to Japan as dangerous to security. Japan, however, is taking consolation in the fact that it can rely on the strongly fortified atomic bases in Okinawa, he said.

When Kishi visited the U.S., he explained to the U.S. government officials the cabinet approved Japanese defense plan that by 1958 there would be a big increase in the ground self-defense force, frigates, minesweepers totaling 124,000 tons for the maritime self-defense force as well as an increase in the air defense force. At that time, the U.S. officials replied that they would consider the problem of modern weapons to Japan if and when it passes a secrets protection law.

The pullout of U.S. forces from Japan will present a sharp problem for the Japanese defense forces with no modern weapons. On the other hand, Japan will not be in a position to produce such weapons on her own.

And as part of its aid program, the U.S. has placed orders with the Procurement Agency for the production in Japan of anti-submarine patrol planes and amphibious weapons, F86F jet fighters and T33 jet trainers.

According to Uemura, the call for the increase in the ground self-defense force active servicemen by 10,000 is undergoing a very slow process.

The U.S.-Japan committee on security opened officially yesterday. This inaugural session took two hours the main point being a preview of the pullout of American ground troops, their replacement with Japanese soldiers and the problems arising from the withdrawal, such as that of some 60,000 Japanese workers presently employed by the U.S. security forces.



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The number of Japanese employed by the U.S. forces in Japan total 120,000 and the withdrawal of the forces will place some 60,000 of them out of work. The Jap desire was that the U.S. army authorities notify them of the plans for troop withdrawal so that the government could make the necessary preparations.

Another problem discussed was that of continued MSA aid even after the U.S. forces leave Japan.

The American side expressed their understanding of these problems and their desire to facilitate effective solutions by advance consultation and close cooperation with the Japanese government.

The American side agreed that the Itasugi and Chitose air bases in Hokkaido would be utilized jointly by the U.S. and Japanese forces. The Yokota airbase, however, would be used exclusively and indefinitely by the U.S. The Yokusuka naval port also falls under the same category. As to Sasebo port, the two sides agreed to further discuss whether it would be used exclusively or jointly.

No further words were exchanged in regard to the above subject as the Japanese people are quite aware of the necessity of such U.S. bases, Uemura said.