

July 31, 1957

**Letter No. 32 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 Ishii, the deputy prime minister, and Yatsugi regarding Japan-Korea problem of proposals.

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, July 31, 1957

No. 32TO : His Excellency
The President

FROM : Tai Ha Yiu

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Aug. 3

At my meeting with Ishii, the deputy prime minister and Yatsugi the other evening, they were anxious to know if I had brought with me any new ideas from my visit to Korea. I told them that my visit was purely a personal one but that I had discussed the problems with our government officials who were strongly against any change in our stand. I also told Ishii to advise Kishi to accept our terms instead of being stubborn and settle the problems. I further stated that our National Assembly was in full support of the government's stand.

Ishii replied that he had been understanding of the Korean situation from the very beginning but that his government would not accept the Korean proposal. He was not sure that his talks with Kishi, however frequently they may take place, would improve matters. His suggestion, however, was that since the preliminary negotiation would be resumed tomorrow, the two sides should exert all their efforts and whatever difficulties that would ensue should be taken up with the higher level. Outright acceptance of the Korean terms would not be possible, notwithstanding, he said.

Commenting on the President's criticism of the Japanese government on its pro-communist or neutral policies, Ishii stated that the President's suspicion was understandable. He pointed out, however, the Red Chinese accusation of Japan for being openly hostile to Communist China. After his return from the U.S. Kishi became more determined to carry out the pledge he made there. Red China also accused Japan for its trade policy. This accusation will not be countered, Ishii said, as Japan and Red China both know that trade between the two countries would not be carried out smoothly in view of the character of the Kishi government.

As I have said to many other Japs, I made the same threat to Ishii that if the Jap fishing vessels take advantage of our good intention and continue to violate our Peace Line in increasing numbers as they are doing at present, our government would take drastic measures to prevent mass violations. Ishii replied that if the situation was really so, he would have Kishi do something about it.

The second preliminary talk since its resumption last week will take place this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. We are unaware of the attitude the Japs will take but we are prepared and have our strategy carefully mapped out.