

November 10, 1955

**Letter, Kim Yong-shik of the Korean Mission in Japan
to President Syngman Rhee**

Citation:

"Letter, Kim Yong-shik of the Korean Mission in Japan to President Syngman Rhee", November 10, 1955, Wilson Center Digital Archive, B-308-064, The Korean Diplomatic Mission in Japan, Reports from the Korean Mission to the United Nations and Republic of Korea Embassies and Legations, Syngman Rhee Institute, Yonsei University.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/123664>

Summary:

Report on conservative merger, Japanese reparation through Red Cross, restriction by US on Red China

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREAN MISSION IN JAPAN

Tokyo, November 10, 1955

Excellency:

I beg to acknowledge with appreciation the receipt of Your Excellency's letters last week, containing comment on the recent session of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Council in which our Government was also represented.

I. The conservative merger in Japan is now entering into the final stage and its development for a few days to come will be very important.

In the negotiations between the Liberals and Japan Democrats until recently, the former wanted their President, Taketora Ogata (Deputy Premier during the Yoshida Cabinet), to be the first head of the new conservative party, while the latter naturally favored the appointment of Premier Hatoyama to the post. With the ceremony for the formation of the new party scheduled for the 15th of this month, this problem has not been settled yet.

This week the negotiators of the Liberals and Democrats tentatively agreed to appoint an Executive Committee which will consist of four top members of the two parties, including Hatoyama and Ogata. According to their plan the said Committee will function as the party head until a new president will be elected some time next year. At any rate, despite various stumbling-blocks it seems definite that the new conservative party will be formed within a few days.

Yesterday (Nov. 9) the Policy Committee of the new party to be formed announced the draft of its platform in which they referred to the settlement of the Korea-Japan problems as one of their immediate tasks in foreign relations. (For other details of the draft platform, please refer to the enclosed translation of the platform.)

II. The Japanese Government wants some 50 Japanese nationals to be repatriated from North Korea through the Red Cross. In this regard the North Korean puppets insist that the

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His Excellency
President Syngman Rhee

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Japanese side include representatives of the Japan-Korea (Communist Korea) Association in the group to be sent to Pyongyang for negotiations. The Japanese Government so far is opposed to the idea, thus the case remains at a standstill.

Some local newspapers criticized North Korean puppets of taking such an attitude. As far as this office is concerned, our stand is made clear sufficiently by means of public statements.

III. According to the recent AP dispatch from Washington the US Government notified the Japanese of its intention to continue restrictions on Japan's trade with Red China. The announcement was made following the report that US Secretary of Commerce Weeks stated the US would relax trade restrictions with Soviet Russia, etc. The Japanese circles started forming wishful thinking after the news on the relaxation of trade with the Soviets.

In the meantime Jap businessmen are prepared to form an association consisting of traders having dealings with Communist China. The said association will be inaugurated on Nov. 24.

Despite several overtures made by North Korean puppets to Japan to seek trade relations, nothing so far has been achieved toward this end due mainly to pressure from our side and the US. It is likely, however, that North Korea might start shipping its goods to Japan via Communist China in a triangle trade and vice versa.

IV. The Japanese munitions industry is set for boom this year. A number of countries of Southeast Asia and Near East placed orders for weapons and ammunitions with Japan. It is estimated that Japan will make approximately \$100-million profits out of these orders.

V. I met Philippine Minister Imperial at a luncheon this noon. He met Premier Hatoyama this morning. Minister Imperial anticipates that after the conservative merger materialized, Japan would take a firm foreign policy, thus the Philippine-Japanese reparations talks would be faced with difficulty again.

With sentiments of loyalty and esteem, I remain,

Most respectfully,



Enclosure: a/s

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